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THE ALBION.

E. CORNWALLIS, Editor and Proprietor.

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SONNETS.

The child from rest of heart shouts out its song,
And smiles the grateful smile of summer flowers;
Our rest is marred by toil, our right by wrong,
Our hearts are joyless in the sunniest hours.
Why do we smile, but that we fear to weep,
Why toil for wealth since wealth enhances pain?
Why garner knowledge from the wise who sleep,
Since in brief life 'tis but a bootless gain?
Gone is the wholesome gladness of old days,
Gone is the faith on which our fathers fed;
We have no heart for prayer, no voice for praise;
Creeds are outworn, they say, and Christ is dead;
Darkly we struggle, vainly strive to live;
This Life is death—has Death no life to give?

O coward hearts! despondent and afraid,
Who read Life's riddle backward to your loss
And wist not 'tis God's sunshine makes the shade,
And that His noblest triumph is the Cross—
O men! o'erwearied with the daily fight
With struggles, doubts, and questions manifold—
Blind with the mist, yet craving for the light—
Joy shall be yours, and rest and peace untold,
Only keep open heart and ear and eye.
Truth creeps with gradual footsteps like the dawn.
'Twas while the darkness lingered in the sky
That Christ arose, the herald of the morn;
For that great moment Life with Death had striven,
For us the strife—then what remains but Heaven?

JOHN DENNIS.

UNPUBLISHED LETTERS FROM LORD BYRON TO THOMAS MOORE.

Contributed to the Albion by Colonel Byron.

Moore, in his Life of Byron, speaks of the existence of many letters and MSS. of Lord Byron, "*which for the present are inaccessible.*" The following Letters, addressed by Lord Byron to Thomas Moore, the poet, are part of a collection now in the possession of Colonel Byron, a near relative of the author of "Childe Harold." Almost half a century has passed away since the death of Lord Byron, and more than thirty years have elapsed since Moore's admirable "Notices" of the Poet appeared. During that period death has been busy with those out of regard to whom Moore was induced to omit from his work passages or letters in Byron's correspondence, and the same remark applies to the seventeen-volume edition of Byron's Works, published by John Murray, of London.

Pisa, November 20, 1821.

MY DEAR MOORE—I ought to have answered your letter long ago, but I am just subsiding into my new residence, after all the bore and bustle of changing. The traveller can "take his ease at his inn," but those who are settled in a place, and must move with bag and baggage, are (as I suppose you know by experience) necessarily more tardy in their arrangements.

I have a very good, spacious house, upon the Arno, and have nothing to complain of, except that it is less quiet than my house in Ravenna.—And so you are at Rome?—I am glad you have got rid of the gout—the tumour, if not of podagrous origin, will subside of itself.

At Bologna I met with Rogers, and we crossed the Apennines together—probably you have got him at Rome by this time. I took him to visit our old friend the sexton, at Certosa (where you and I met with Bianchetti), who looked at him very *hard*, and seemed well disposed to keep him back in his skull-room. The said sexton, by the way, brought out his two daughters, to renew our acquaintance; one of them is very pretty, and the other sufficiently so. He talked pathetically of the venality of the age, in which young virgins could not be espoused without a dower; so that, if you are disposed to portion them on your way to Milan, you have an opportunity of exercising your benevolence.

I was obliged to set out the next day with Rogers; I remained with him a day at Florence, and then came on alone to Pisa, where I found all my friends in good health and plight. Rogers looks a little black still about being called "venerable," but he did not mention it.

It was at his own request that I met him in the City of Sausages: he is not a bad traveller, but bilious. As to "Don Juan," it is not impossible that he might have visited the city which you recommend to his inspection; but these costermonger days are unfavourable to all liberal extension of morality. As to his author, he can hardly come on to Rome again for the present; but some day or other probably may. You ask after Bowles? but he has been so extremely civil, that I could not, without appearing overbearing and insolent, continue the controversy; for I could not answer without saying something sharp, and therefore it is better to be silent.

If Lord Clare and Lord Sligo are at Rome, and are of your acquaintance, will you tell them both, with my best remembrance, that I will answer their letters soon?

I find my old friends have got a notion (founded, I suppose, on an angry note of mine to a poem), that I receive nobody, and renew no old acquaintance. They are very much mistaken—I only desire no new ones. The silly note (which, by the way, I desired Murray to suppress before publication), was caused by a really impudent assertion of an anonymous traveller, who said, that he, or she, had frequently declined an introduction to me. Now, I never in my life proposed, and rarely would accept, an English introduction since I came abroad. Let me hear from you whenever you think it is not a bore to do so, and believe me

Ever and truly yours,
BYRON.

Pisa, Feb. 25, 1822.

MY DEAR MOORE—With regard to what you say about publishing, I have before declared, that I cannot take it ill; it is the manner, and not the matter of such things which can offend; and yours in the present instance, is plain—to the purpose, meant well, and, I trust, not ill taken: no one has a greater right to say what he pleases to me than you, who have so much trouble and bother on my account. But, acknowledging all this, I shall not the less continue to publish, till I have run my vein dry. You say it is not profitable—be it so; I shall do so for nothing; till, indeed, it becomes actually a loss—and this, because it is an occupation of mind, like play, or any other stimulus.

With regard to what I sent you a few days ago ("The Mystery"), and what I shall send you in a few days (the "Werner"), I shall publish them with another publisher, and anonymously if you like. I am much surprised that you say nothing about the "Vision," as you seemed delighted with it, and eager to get it published. Published it shall be, though even upon my own account. As I said before, the profit is a secondary object—pleasant if it come, but to be borne without, if it do not. If you cannot settle with any English publisher, forward them to Galignani at Paris, and make any arrangement you please.

You can get my MSS. out of Murray's hands, as I shall most probably collect all those I have, and publish them at once. My object is not *immediate* popularity in my present productions, which are written on a different system from the rage of the day. But *mark what I say;* that the time will come when these will be preferred to any I have before written—it is not from the cry or hubbub of a month that these things are to be decided upon. In the meantime I intend to be as a Calderon, or Lope de Vega.

As to my parting at the present moment with a thousand guineas, I can tell you, that I shall consent to nothing of the kind. I wonder if you take me for an atheist, to make me so unchristian a proposition? It is true that I have reduced my expenses; but I still have had many to encounter. On getting to dry land, I had to buy carriages, and some new horses, and to furnish my house; for here you find only walls, no furnished apartments—it is not the custom. Besides, though I do not subscribe to liquidate the sum of two thousand pounds for a man of twenty thousand per annum, nor write me down a contributor to the English radical societies, yet, wherever I find a poor man suffering for his opinions—and there are many such in this country—I always let him have a shilling out of a guinea.

What you say of ——'s declining health would be very well to any one else; but the way to be immortalized—I mean, not to die at all—is to have me for your heir. I recommend you to put me in your will, and you will see that as long as I live, you will never even catch cold. I could give you some curious and interesting details of things here; but they open all letters, and I have no wish to gratify any curiosity except that of my friends, and gossips. Some day or other, when we meet, (if we do meet), I will make your hair stand on end, and Rogers' wig (does he wear one still?) start from its frame, and leave him under *bare poles*.

There is one thing which I wish particularly to communicate to you—and yet it can't be, without this letter went in a balloon, and, as Incledon says, "Tha—at's impossible!" Let me hear from you as much good news as you can send in that soft, agreeable, conciliating style of yours.

Yours, ever and truly,
N. B.

Pisa, April 2, 1822.

MY DEAR MOORE—I cannot make this a long letter (luckily for you), for I am a good deal occupied about a very unpleasant squabble between some soldiers of the guard at the gate, a drunken brutal dragoon, and some English gentlemen, including myself. The result was that they tried to arrest us. I broke through with another. An Englishman was wounded and the dragoon stabbed (by a servant, as is supposed), in a very dangerous way, in the full street, before thousands of people, as he was galloping along, after sabring the unarmed people already in arrest. The fellow is, however, declared out of danger, and the Englishman is also well. This is the sum; but the particular depositions I reserve until I hear again from our minister at Florence—who has sent me a very polite answer to the papers which I forwarded to him—in order that the statement may not appear garbled or premature.

You may suppose the row, a sort of miniature Manchester business, except that the military aggressor has not, in this instance, escaped with impunity. It is a strange instance of the fallibility of human testimony, that, with thousands of witnesses, they have not been able to identify the man who wounded the dragoon, nor even the weapon with which the deed was perpetrated; for some said a pistol, some an air-gun, and others, a stiletto, a lance, and a pitchfork.

Mr. Dawkins, our minister, says, that I am acquitted of any suspicion of having sanctioned, approved or suggested the act of which his assailant is accused. The fact was, we, at least

I, mistook the fellow for an officer—he is a serjeant-major—but I am no great tailor in uniforms. He rode against one of the party, and I advanced to him, to ask what he meant. He blustered and bullied—and thence the whole affair. After I had given him my card, he called to the guard to arrest us, and so forth, as alluded to above. I have only one more word to add: the man they have sworn to as guilty of the act is not a servant of mine, but of Count Gamba; there is, however, every reason to suppose that he is *not* the real assailant.

Yours, ever and truly, N. B.

Genoa, November, 1822.

My Dear Moore—I have finished the twelfth canto of Don Juan, which I will forward when copied. With the sixth, seventh, and eighth in one volume, and with the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth in another, the whole may form two volumes, of about the same size as the two former. There are some good things in them, as perhaps may be allowed. Perhaps one volume had better be published with one publisher, and the other with another; it would be a new experiment; or one in one month, and another in the next, or both at once. What thinkest thou? Murray, long after the "piracies," offered me a thousand pounds (guineas) a canto for as many as I might choose to write. He has since departed from this proposal, for it was too much, and I would not take advantage of it. You must, however, use your own judgment with regard to the MSS., and let me know what you propose; presuming always (what may at last be but a presumption) that the seven new cantos are, on the whole, equal to the five former. Suppose Hunt, or somebody else, were to publish one canto a week, upon the same sized paper, to correspond with the various former editions?—but this is merely as a vision, and may be very foolish, for aught I know. I have read the defence of Cain, which is very good; who can be the author? As to myself I shall not be deterred by any outcry; your present public hate me, but they shall not interrupt the march of my mind; nor prevent me from telling those who are attempting to trample on all thought, that their thrones shall yet be rocked to their foundations. It is Madame de Staël who says, "that all talent has a propensity to attack the strong." I have never flattered—whether it be or be not a proof of talent. I have just seen the illustrious * * * who came to visitate me here. I had not seen him these ten years. He had a black wig, and had been made a knight for writing against the queen. He wants a diplomatic situation, and seems likely to want it. He found me thinner even than in 1813; for since my late illness at Lerici, on my way here, I have subsided into my more meagre outline, am obliged to be very abstinent by medical advice, on account of liver and what not.

But to the point—or at least my point in mentioning this new chevalier. Ten years ago I lent him a thousand pounds on condition that he would not go to the Jews; he took the money, and went to the Jews. Now, as Mr. —— is a purchaser of bonds, will he purchase this of me? or will any body else, at a discount?

I have been invited by the Americans on board of their squadron here, and was received with the greatest kindness, and rather *too much* ceremony. They have asked me to sit for my picture to an American artist now in Florence. As I was preparing to depart, an American lady took a rose which I wore, from me, and said that she wished to send something which I had about me to America. They showed me, too, American editions of my poems, and all kinds of attention and good-will. I also hear that, as an author, I am in high request in Germany. All this is some compensation for the desertion of the English. Would you write a German line to Goethe for me, explaining the omission of the dedication to "Sardanapalus" by the fault of the publisher, and asking his permission to prefix it to the forthcoming volume of Werner and the Mystery? Are you quite well yet? I hope so. I am selling two more horses, and dismissing two superfluous servants. My horses now amount to *four* instead of *nine*; and I have arranged my establishment on the same footing. So you perceive that I am in earnest in my frugalities.

Yours, ever affectionately, N. B.

December 19, 1822.

My Dear Moore—As you are convalescent—that is to say, not quite well, but not ill enough to find yourself *not* ennuyé—I have less hesitation in writing frequently; because, after having yawned sufficiently over *present* friends, you can fairly go to sleep over the *absent*. When you are once abroad again, haranguing, galloping, and prospering, I shall have less chance of attention; but nevertheless I pray you "to ride gently over the stones." One would think you had been breaking in my Pegasus, by the falls you have undergone. Prithee, be careful; after a man is turned of thirty, why should he ride a mad horse except in case of war or women? I have been pondering over the vicissitudes of "Don Juan." As for booksellers' intrigues, and booksellers' demons, they are not worth a thought.—I tell you that the two most successful things ever written by me, viz., the English Bards and Childe Harold, were refused by one-half "the trade," and reluctantly received by the other. There are two or three ways to proceed.

Firstly. To look about and see if any proposition is made by those *tanners* of authors, the calf-skin, morocco, and Muscovite publishers.

Secondly. If none be made, we have always the option of stamping (an Italic phrase) upon the "touch and go" account score; which is only objectionable inasmuch as it never yet succeeded—but it *may*; as steam has, and as balloons will.

Thirdly. If so concluded, we must have securities that said publisher's account shall have its arithmetic summed up, and checked by the skilful in such affairs.

Fourthly. Are the "Don Juans" subject to any law? that is, *your* laws, which are somewhat of the queerest; and is any compact respecting them *binding* to the contracting parties?

Fifthly. If Mr. John Hunt publish them eventually, his son (if of age) ought to be comprised in the stipulation to render a fair account of *meum et tuum* quarterly to persons appointed by the author.

Sixthly. Some other ought to be bound—not for the assets, but merely in case of non-fulfilment to guarantee, that the account, (be it good, bad, or indifferent) is a fair and true one; for it is a difficult piece of antiquarianism to decipher the hieroglyphic of a publisher's balance, *pro, con*, or otherwise, or anywise.

I venture to throw out these hints for your honour's convalescence; but how far they may merit attention in your sickness, or your health, is left to your consideration. "And your petitioner shall ever," etc., etc., etc.

I am not very well—I suspect worse than you are—at least I hope so. Ever since the summer when I was fool enough to swim some four miles under a broiling sun, at Via Reggio, I have been more or less ailing.

First, my skin peeled off—then it came again—then I had a fever and violent inflammation, which confined me to my bed, in a bad inn, on a worse road. I thought I was well quit for the winter at least, but lo! within this last month, I have had eruptions, and the deuce knows what besides; so that I have been compelled to call in an English physician, who has decocted and concocted me, *secundum artem*, until I am turned inside out. I am as temperate as an anchorite; but I suspect that temperance is a more effective medicine at twenty than at thirty—and almost *five*.

Oh Parish Register! oh Peerage! why
Record those years that I would fain deny?

I shall not trouble you farther, and I merely do it now as a sleeping draught for your collar-bone.

Yours, ever and truly, N. B.

P. S. I tell you that English Bards and the first and second cantos of Childe Harold were refused by half the craft, and even crafts, in London, although *no* demand was made. Decide for yourself from such premises—*they know nothing*.

LIKE CURES LIKE.

A TALE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE GLADIATORS," ETC.

CHAPTER II.

It is more than twenty years ago, and yet how vividly it all comes back to him to-night.

The sun has gone down in streaks of orange and crimson over the old oaks that crown the deer park sloping upward to the rear of Eccleefield Manor. Mr. Bruce walks across a darkened room to throw the window open for a gasp of fresh evening air, laden with the perfume of pinks, carnations, and moss-roses in the garden below. *Her* garden! Is it possible? Something in the action reminds him of that bright, hopeful morning at Calais. Something in the scent of the flowers steals to his brain half torpid and benumbed; his heart contracts with an agony of physical suffering. "My darling! my darling!" he murmurs, "shall I never see you tying those flowers again?" and turning from the window, he falls on his knees by the bedside with a passionate burst of weeping that, like blood-letting to the body, restores the unwelcome faculty of consciousness to his mind. When he raises his head again he knows well enough that the one great misfortune has arrived at last—that henceforth for *him* there may come, in the lapse of long years, resignation, even repose, but hope and happiness no more.

Even now, though he wonders at his own callousness, he can bear to look on the bed, through a mist of tears, and so looking, feels his intellect falling in its effort to grasp the calamity that has befallen him.

There she lies, like a dead lily, his own, his treasure, his beloved; the sweet face, calm and placid, with its chiselled ivory features, its smooth and gentle brow, has already borrowed a higher, a more perfect beauty from the immortality on which it has entered. Not fairer, not lovelier, did she look that well-remembered evening when he first knew her pure and priceless heart was his own, though she has borne him a daughter—nay, two daughters (and he winces with a fresh and different pain)—the younger as old as she was then. Her raven hair is parted soft and silky off those pale, delicate temples; her long black lashes rest upon the waxen cheek. No; she never looked as beautiful, not in the calm sleep he used to watch so lovingly; and now the deep, fond eyes must open on his own no more. She was so gentle, too, so patient, so sweet-tempered, and oh! so true. He had been a man of the world, neither better nor worse than others: he knew women well; knew how rare are the good ones; knew the prize he had won, and valued it—yes, he was sure he always valued it as it deserved. What was the use? Had she not far better have been like the others—petulent, wilful, capricious, covetous of admiration, careless of affection, weak-headed, shallow-hearted, and desirous only of that which could not possibly be her own? Such were most of the women amongst whom he had been thrown in his youth; but oh! how unlike her who was lying dead there before his eyes.

"For men at most differ as heaven and earth,
But women, worst and best, as heaven and hell."

He felt so keenly now that she had been his better angel for more than twenty years; that but for her he might long ago have deteriorated to selfishness and cynicism, or sunk into that careless philosophy which believes only in the tangible, the material, and the present.

A good woman's lot may be linked to that of a bad man; she may even love him very dearly, and yet retain much of her purer, better nature amidst all the mire in which she is steeped; but it is not so with us. To care for a bad woman is to be dragged down to her level, inch by inch, till the intellect itself becomes sapped in a daily degradation of the heart. From such slavery emancipation is cheap under any suffering, at any sacrifice. The lopping of a limb is a painful process, but above a gangrened wound experienced surgeons amputate without scruple or remorse.

On the other hand, a true woman's affection is of all earthly influences the noblest and most elevating. It encourages the highest and gentlest qualities of man's nature—his enterprise, courage, patience, sympathy, above all, his trust. Happy the pilgrim on whose life such a beacon-star has shone out to guide him in the right way; thrice happy if it sets not until it has lured him so far that he will never again turn aside from the path.

Such reflections as these, while they added to his sense of loss and loneliness, yet took so much of the sting out of Mr. Bruce's great sorrow, that he could realise it for minutes at a time without being goaded to madness, or stunned to apathy by the pain.

There had been no warning—no preparation. He had left her that morning as usual, after smoking a cigar in her society on the lawn, while she tied, and snipped, and gathered the flowers of her pretty garden. He had visited the stable, ordered the pony-carriage, seen the keeper, and been to look at on Alderney cow. It was one of his idle days, yet, after twenty years of marriage, such days he liked to spend, if possible, in the company of his wife. So he strolled back to write his letters in her boudoir, and entered it at the garden door, expecting to find her, as usual, busied in some graceful feminine employment.

Her work was heaped on the sofa; a book she had been reading lay open on the table; the very flowers she gathered an hour ago had the dew on them still. He could not finish his first letter without consulting her, for she kept his memory, his conscience, and his money, just as she kept his heart, so he ran up-stairs to her bedroom door and knocked.

There was no answer, and he went in. At the first glance he thought she must have fainted, for she had fallen on her knees against a high backed chair, her face buried in its cushions, and one hand touching the carpet. He had a quick eye, and the turn of that grey rigid hand warned him with a stab of something he refused persistently to believe. Then he lifted her on the bed where she lay now, and sent for every doctor within reach.

He had no recollection of the interval that elapsed before the nearest could arrive, nor distinct notion of that long sunny afternoon while he sat by his Nina in the death-chamber. Once he got up to stop the ticking of a clock on the chimney-piece, moving mechanically with stealthy footfall across the room lest she should be disturbed. The doctors came and went, agreeing, as they left the house, that he had answered their questions with wonderful precision and presence of mind; nay, that he was less prostrated by the blow than they should have expected. "Disease of the heart," said they—I believe they called it "the *pericardium*;" and after paying a tribute of admiration to the loveliness of the dead lady, discussed the leading article of that day's *Times* with perfect equanimity. What would you have? There can be but one person in the world to whom another is more than all the world beside.

This person was sitting by Nina's bed, except for a few brief minutes at a time, utterly stupefied and immovable. Even Maud—his cherished daughter Maud—whose smile had hitherto been welcome in his eyes as the light of morning, could not rouse his attention by the depth of her own uncontrolled grief. He sat like an idiot or an opium eater, till something prompted him to open the window and gasp for a breath of fresh evening air. Then it all came back to him, and he awoke to the full consciousness of his misery.

There are men, though not many, and these, perhaps, the least inclined to prate about it, who have one attachment in their lives, to which every other sentiment is but an accessory and a satellite. Such natures are often very bold to dare, very strong to endure, very difficult to assail, save in their single vulnerable point. Force that, and the man's whole vitality seems to collapse. He does not even make a fight of it, but fails, gives in, and goes down without an effort. Such was the character of Mr. Bruce, and to-day he had gotten his death-blow.

The stars twinkled out faintly one by one, the harvest-moon rose broad and ruddy behind the wooded hill, and still he sat, stupefied, at the bedside. The door opened gently to admit a beautiful girl, strangely, startlingly like her dead mother, who came in with a cup of tea and a candle. Setting these on the chimney-piece, she moved softly round to where he sat, and pressed his head, with both hands, against her breast.

"Dearest father," said she, "I have brought you some tea. Try and rouse yourself, papa, dear papa, for *my* sake. You love *me* too."

"The appeal was well chosen; once more the tears came to his eyes, and he woke up as from a dream.

"You are a good girl, Maud," he answered, with a vague, distracted air. "I have my children left—I have my children left! But all the world cannot make up to me for what I have lost!"

She thought his mind was wandering, and tried to recall him to himself.

"We must bear our sorrow as best we may, papa," she answered, very gently. "We must help each other. You and I are alone now in the world."

A contraction, as of some fresh pain, came over his livid face. He raised his head to speak, but stopping himself with an obvious effort, looked long and scrutinisingly in his daughter's face.

Maud Bruce was a very beautiful girl even now, in the extremity of her sorrow. She had been crying heartily, no wonder, but her delicate features were not swollen, nor her dark eyes dimmed. The silky hair shone smooth and trim, the muslin dress was not rumpled nor disarranged, and the white hands, with which she still caressed her father's sorrow-laden head, neither shook nor wavered in their office.

With her mother's beauty, Miss Bruce had inherited but little of her mother's character; on the contrary, her nature, like that of her father's ancestors rather than his own, was bold, firm, and self-reliant to an unusual degree. She was hard, and that is the only epithet properly to describe her—manner, voice, appearance, all were lady-like, feminine, and exceedingly attractive; but the self-possession she never seemed to lose, would have warned an experienced admirer, that beneath the white bosom beat a heart not to be reduced by stratagem, nor carried by assault; that he must not hope to see the beautiful dark eyes veil themselves in the dreamy softness which so confesses all it means to hide; that the raven tresses clinging coquettishly to that faultless head were most unlikely to be served as a tribute for any one whose conquest would not be a question of pride and profit to their owner. Tenderness was the one quality Maud lacked, the one quality, which, like the zone of Venus, completed all her mother's attractions with an indefinable and irresistible charm.

There is a wild German legend which describes how a certain woodman, a widower, gave entertainment to a strangely fascinating dame, and falling in love with her, incontinently made his guest lawful mistress of his hearth and home; how, notwithstanding his infatuated passion, and intense admiration for her beauty, there was yet in it a fierceness which chilled and repelled him, while he worshipped; how his children could never be brought to look in the fair face of their stepmother without crying aloud for fear; and how at last he discovered to his horror and dismay, that he had wedded a fearful creature, half wolf, half woman, combining the seductions of the syren with the cruel voracity of the brute. There was something about Maud Bruce to remind one of that horrible myth, even now, now at her gentlest and softest, while she clung round a sorrowing father, by the death-bed of one, whom in their different ways, both had dearly loved.

It was well that the young lady preserved her presence of mind, for Bruce seemed incapable of connecting thought or action. He roused himself, indeed, at his daughter's call, but gazed stupidly about him, stammered in his speech, and faltered in his step when he crossed the room. The shock of grief had evidently overmastered his faculties—something, too, besides affliction, seemed to worry and distress him—something of which he wished to unbosom himself, but that yet he could not make up his mind to reveal. Maud, whose quickness of perception was seldom at fault, did not fail to observe this, and reviewing the position with her accustomed coolness, drew her father gently to the writing-table, and sat down.

"Papa," said she, "there is much to be done. We must exert ourselves. It will do us both good. Bargrave can be down by the middle of the day, to-morrow. Let me write for him at once."

Bargrave and Co. were Mr. Bruce's solicitors, as they had been his great-uncle's: it was the same firm, indeed, that had apprized him of his inheritance at Calais twenty years ago. How he rejoiced in their intelligence then! What was the use of an inheritance now?

A weary lassitude had come over him; he seemed incapable of exertion, and shook his head in answer to Maud's appeal; but again some hidden motive stung him into action, and

taking his seat at the writing-table, he seized a pen, only to let it slip helplessly through his fingers, while he looked in his daughter's face with a vacant stare.

Maud was equal to the occasion. Obviously something more than sorrow had reduced her father to this state. She sat down opposite, scribbled off a note hastily enough, but in the clear unwavering hand, affirmed by her correspondents to be so characteristic of the writer's disposition, and ringing the bell, desired it should be despatched on the instant. "Let Thomas take the brougham with the ponies; the doctor is sure to be at home. He can bring him back at once."

Then she looked at her father, and stopped the lady's-maid who, tearful and hysterical, had answered the familiar summons, which but this morning was "missis's bell."

"While they are putting to," said she, calmly, "I will write a telegraphic message and a letter. Tell him to send word when he is ready. I shall give him exactly ten minutes."

Once more she glanced uneasily at Mr. Bruce; what she saw decided her. In half a dozen words she penned a concise message to her father's solicitor, desiring him to come himself or send a confidential person to Ecclesfield Manor, by the very first train, on urgent business; and wrote a letter as well to the same address, explaining her need of immediate assistance, for Mr. Bargrave to receive the following morning, in case that gentleman should not obey her telegram in person, a contingency Miss Bruce considered highly probable.

The ten minutes conceded to Thomas had stretched to twenty before he was ready, for so strong is the force of habit among stablemen, that even in a case of life and death, horses cannot be allowed to start till their manes are straightened and their hoofs blacked. In the interval, Miss Bruce became more and more concerned to observe no signs of attention on her father's part—no inquiries as to her motives—apparently no consciousness of what she was doing. When the brougham was heard to roll away at a gallop, she came round and put her arm about his neck, where he sat in his chair at the writing-table.

"Papa, dear," she said, "I have told them to get your dressing-room ready. You are ill, very ill. I can see it. You must go to bed."

He nodded, and smiled. Such a weary, silly smile, letting her lead him away like a little child. He would even have passed the bed where his wife lay without a look, but that his daughter stopped him at the door.

"Papa," said she—and the girl deserved credit for the courage with which she kept her tears back—"won't you kiss her before you go?"

It may be some instinct warned her that not in the body was he to look on the face he loved again—that those material lips were never more to touch the gentle brow which in a whole life-time he had not seen to frown—that their next greeting, freed from earthly anxieties, released from earthly troubles, must be exchanged, at no distant period, in heaven.

He obeyed unhesitatingly, imprinting a caress on his dead wife's forehead, with no kind of emotion, and so left the room, muttering vaguely certain indistinct and incoherent syllables, in which the words "Nina" and "Bargrave" were alone intelligible.

Maud saw her father to his room, and consigned him to the hands of his valet, to be put to bed without delay. Then she went to the dining-room, and forced herself to eat a crust of bread, to drink a single glass of sherry. "I shall need all my strength to-night," thought the girl, "to take care of poor papa, and arrange about the funeral, and such matters, as he cannot attend to—the funeral! Oh, mother, dear, kind mother! I wasn't half good enough to you while you were with us, and now—but I won't cry—I won't cry. There'll be time enough for all that by-and-by. The first thing to think of is about papa. He hasn't borne it well. Men have very little courage when they come to trial, and I fear—I fear, there is something sadly wrong with him. Let me see. Three-quarters of an hour to get to Bragford—five minutes' stoppage at the turnpike, for that stupid man is sure to have gone to bed—five minutes more for Doctor Skilton to put on his great coat, forty minutes for coming back, those ponies always go faster towards home. No, he can't be here under another hour. Another hour! It's a long time in a case like this. Suppose papa should have a paralytic stroke! And I haven't a notion what to do—the proper remedies, the best treatment. Women ought to know everything, and be ready for everything.

"Then there's the lawyer to-morrow. I don't suppose papa will be able to see him. I must think of all the business—all the arrangements. He can't be here till ten o'clock at the earliest, even if he starts by the first train. I shall write my directions for *him* in the morning. Meantime, I'll go and sit with poor papa, and see if I can't hush him off to sleep."

But when Miss Bruce reached her father's room, she found him lying in an alarming state of which she had no experience. Something between sleeping and waking, yet without the repose of the one, the consciousness of the other. So she took her place by his pillow, and watched, listening anxiously for the brougham that was to bring the doctor.

To be continued.

RACEHORSES IN ENGLAND.

A gentleman very prominent on the English Turf, Admiral Rous, has recently written a letter to the London *Times*, stating his objections to the Resolutions which Sir Joseph Hawley intends to submit to the English Jockey Club, with a view to impose restrictions upon the running of two-year-old horses on public racecourses. Admiral Rous is a great authority upon racing and racehorses, and if we do not accept his conclusions, it is not so much that we dispute his judgment, as that we, and, if we mistake not, the general public also, do not concur with him in the degree of importance to be attached to the various orders of considerations that are pertinent to the subject. No doubt, a proper decision depends upon a balance of all the considerations, but it is essential to keep these considerations quite distinct. These considerations may be divided into two great classes—the interests of the racing world, and the interest of society at large in the improvement of the breed of horses and in the morality of the Turf.

The objections which the various members of the racing world make to Sir Joseph Hawley's proposals are intelligible enough. The man who lives by his own racehorses, backing them and winning races by them, of course finds it his profit to run them as two-year-olds. A racehorse being an animal of delicate structure and high spirits, and being subjected to severe trials, is peculiarly liable to break down or to suffer accidents; the briefer, therefore, the period of risk, the safer the speculation. Again, whether horses are to run early or late, their owner must begin to have them trained early, otherwise they will be intractable all their lives. Training, we need scarcely say, is an expensive business; the training of many horses is a steady drain upon the purse, while the influx of funds from the winnings of the fortunate few is both intermittent and precarious. It is clearly, therefore, the interest of the owner to ascertain at the earliest moment which of his horses are likely to turn out winners, that he may forthwith dismiss the others and save himself the useless expense of a long bill from the trainer. But the virtues of horses—their endurance, temper, speed—are not discoverable by simple inspection even to a skilled trainer. They must be tested, and every trial, besides the risk of accident, is a strain which it is desirable to save a young horse so far as possible, and, therefore, to postpone until the immediate preparation for the real public contests. These necessities are especially pressing in the case of a man of small capital—of one who owns only a few horses or horses of a light stamp, who cannot afford to buy the best animals or even to wait till those which he possesses reach their maturity. Quick returns are said to be the secret of commerce, but for merchants with slender capital they are indispensable. The practice, followed by Lord Jersey in former days, of never running a horse till he is brought out for the Derby, may be all very well for sportsmen of the type of that nobleman; it will never do for the modern petty traders of the Turf. This is fully borne out by the history of the Turf. Forty years ago racing was an aristocratic pastime, mingled, doubtless, with a good deal of speculation; now it is a gambling business; and concomitant with this change has been the monstrous development of two-year-old races. So long ago as 1859—a fact which Lord Derby mentioned in the House of Lords in the debate on Lord Redesdale's Bill about light-weight racing—the numbers of two-year-old and three-year-old racers, which in 1829 had been to each other as 2 to 7, had reached the proportion of 8 to 7. This, of course, explains the opposition to Sir Joseph Hawley's Resolutions from others besides owners of racehorses. The proposed restrictions upon races of two-year-olds would involve a vast diminution of racing. Admiral Rous points out that last year, between the 1st of February and the 1st of July, two-year-olds ran in no less than 998 races—a state of things which, could Sir Joseph Hawley have his way throughout the kingdom, would never again occur. The share of Newmarket alone in this general loss would exceed 50 races every year. Of course, all the racing world—at least, all the trading members of it—are up in arms. A direct attack is being made upon their trade. The breeder sees very well that the fewer horses entered the less will be the demand upon his stud. The trainer knows that if no horses are to be run till they are nearly three years old, many of his boxes will be empty, and that he will lose all the extra profits that come to him from the winnings of the young two-year-olds from his stable. The jockey will lose many a good mount, and the young light weights will cease to be in requisition. The fraternity of the Ring feel themselves hard hit by the bare suggestion of the change. To stop two-year-olds from running till the 1st of July would, indeed, be taking the spring out of the year. And then behind there come a motley company of men, not on the Turf, but connected with it and profiting by it in various ways—owners of racecourses, lessees of stands, hotel-keepers, lodginghouse-keepers, and all those who gain by the entertainment of race-goers, from corporations which subscribe to present town plates down to gipsies, touters, and the Aunt Sallies of the course. Finally, there are those who attend races for pleasure, and their interest also is all against reform. To them the gaiety of the course, the number of races, and abundance of sport are all in all. The inhabitants of country towns dread lest their local races should cease to be attractive and fall into desuetude. The habitual race-goer sees before him a melancholy prospect; a large portion of his pleasure-occupation cut away at a single stroke, the calendar shorn of its attractions, and many a dreary blank in the place of days now replete with excitement. Thus from these various quarters arises a loud cry of indignation and alarm at the proposals of Sir Joseph Hawley. If they were to be submitted, not to the Jockey Club, but to the universal suffrage of those connected with the Turf, their rejection, which is already too probable, would be inevitable. It is to these by no means disinterested remonstrances that Admiral Rous seems to pay an excessive regard.

And now to turn to the other side of the question. We forbear to touch upon some of the objections that are very commonly and very properly made to the system of racing two-year-olds. We mean objections on account of the cruelty to the animals themselves, which in the great majority of instances are overstrained, break down, and are discarded most probably to lead a miserable existence—objections on account of the injury to the health of the jockeys, who are either wasted adults or children more precocious than the beasts they bestride—or objections on account of the effect upon the morality of the Turf as exhibited by the conduct of the races of two-year-olds and the light-weight handicaps, especially on the small provincial and suburban racecourses. Upon the present occasion we confine ourselves to the effect of the system upon the improvement of the breed. In the first place, it is to be observed that these various classes which we have specified—trading owners of racehorses, trainers, breeders, jockeys, bookmakers, innkeepers, and racegoers—pursue racing for their own profit or pleasure, and not from a desire for the improvement of the breed; and that their profit or pleasure is quite irrespective of any such improvement. The gains of the owner from his horse or of its trainer and jockey are determined by its relative superiority over its competitors, be the standard of excellence high or low. The breeder would not suffer from a deterioration of the breed, provided that deterioration was general and not incompatible with the continuance of racing. The bookmaker wins an equally large stake on the Derby when won by an inferior and when won by a first-rate animal. The stand-proprietor and innkeeper care only for the number of customers they can get out of the spectators; and as for the spectators, to the bulk of them a racehorse is a racehorse if he is only called one, the subtle niceties of breed being a mystery far beyond vulgar apprehension.

Admiral Rous is positive that the breed of horses has vastly improved in the last half century, and that this improvement has in no way been retarded by the early training of two-year-olds. Now, these are two distinct propositions, and the second is by no means a corollary from the first. It is a mistake to suppose that the breed of horses is altogether or even chiefly dependent on horseraces. Were all racing abolished to-morrow, it is quite possible that the breed might be maintained, and even improved—indeed, we may prophesy that it would be improved, if society required it. Breeding up to a standard, whether actual or ideal, is now a well-understood though highly difficult art; given only time, and there is scarce a limit to be put upon the improvements which man may produce. If there is a demand in the market for horses of certain qualities, whatever those qualities are and for whatever purpose required, breeders have only to proceed systematically towards the well-defined object, and in due course there will be an adequate supply of the animals required. Competition even for low prizes is no doubt a stimulant, as has been abundantly proved by the effect of agricultural and horticultural shows upon our cattle, poultry, fruit, and flowers. In this respect the prizes of the racecourse tend to improve the breed; in others, however, they tend to injure it. For instance, with reference to this very question of the two-year-olds, supposing that none of the animals broken down by premature training were used for breeding purposes, still the very fact that it is most profitable to run horses of that age, and that they are raced accordingly, would tend to the deterioration of the breed. Breeders would select for the stud animals that had exhibited an early precocity, in the hopes that their progeny, to whom the same quality would be transmitted, would command a higher price in the market from those who trade in horseracing. That animals of early precocity hold an inferior rank, and that gradual development is the condition of the higher organisms, are axioms to the naturalist, and are commonly illustrated by the ephemeral perfection of insects and the slow acquisition by man of his full faculties. To this rule horses, of course, are no exception. Whether, in point of fact, the racing of two-year-olds has retarded the improvement of the breed is a matter on which judges differ. The opinion of Sir Joseph Hawley, who has been a most successful winner with horses of that age, is at least entitled to great weight, and so are the opinions of those other members of the Jockey Club who support his Resolution or modifications of it, being, as they are, gentlemen who follow racing for the genuine love of the pastime. Admiral Rous places his authority in the opposite scale, but we cannot say his arguments are convincing. The fact which he adduces, that brilliant early winners have been most distinguished at the stud, proves only that, being the strongest of their generation, they have passed without injury through the trials to which the vast majority have succumbed. This majority are overlooked in the calculation of the Admiral, who proceeds much in the same way as those who preach reliance upon the prognostications of dreams, remembering only those that have come true, and forgetting all that have proved false.

CONCERNING WIDOWS.

There are widows and widows, sarcastically remarks the *Saturday Review*. There are those who are bereaved, and those who are released; those who lose their support, and those whose chains are broken; those who are sunk in desolation, and those who wake up into freedom. Of the first we will not speak. Theirs is a sorrow too sacred to be publicly handled even with sympathy; but the second demands no such respectful reticence. The widow who is no sooner released from one husband than she plots for another, and the widow who leaps into liberty over the grave of a gaoler, not a lover, are fair game enough. They have always been favourite subjects for authors to exercise their wits on; and while men are what they are—laughing animals apt to see the humour lying in incongruity, and with a spice of the devil to sharpen that same laughter into satire—they will remain favourite subjects, tragic as the state is when widowhood is deeper than mere outward condition.

There are many varieties of the widow, and all are not beautiful. For one, there is the widow who is bent on re-marrying whether men like it or not—that thing of prey who goes about the world seeking whom she may devour; that awful creature who bears down on her victims with a vigour in her assaults that puts to flight the popular fancy about the weaker sex and the distribution of power. No hawk poised over a brood of hedge birds, no shark cruising steadily towards a shoal of small fry, no piratical craft sailing under a free flag and accountable to no law save success, was ever more formidable to the weaker things pursued than is the hawk widow bent on remarrying. She knows so much; there is not a manœuvre by which a victory can be stolen that she has not mastered; and she is not afraid of even the most desperate measures. When she has once struck, he would be a clever man and a bold one who could escape her. Generally left but meagrely provided for in worldly goods—else her game would not be so difficult—she makes up for her poverty here by her wealth of bold resources, and by the courage with which she takes her own fortunes in hand, and, with her own, those of her more eligible masculine associates. She is a woman of purpose, and lives for an end; and that end is re-marriage. If fate has dealt hardly by her—though, may be, compassionately by her successive spouses—and has landed her in the widowed state twice or thrice, she is nowise daunted, and as little abashed. She merely refits after a certain time of anchorage, and goes out into the open again for a repetition of her chance. She has no notion of a perpetuity of weeds, and, though she may have cleared her half century with a margin besides, thinks the suggestive orange-blossoms of the bride infinitely more desirable than the fruitless heliotrope of the widow. If one husband is taken, she remembers the old proverb, and reflects on the many, quite as good, who are potentially left subject to her choice. And somehow she manages. It has been said that any woman can marry any man if she determines to do so, and follows on the line of her determination with tenacity and common sense. The hawk widow exemplifies the truth of this saying. She determines upon marriage, and she usually succeeds; the question being one of victim only, not of sacrifice. One has to fall to her share; there is no help for it, and the whole contest is, which shall it be? which is strongest to break her bonds? which craftiest to slip out of them? which most resolute not to bear them from the beginning? This the straggling covey must settle among themselves the best way they can. When the hawk pounces down upon its quarry, it is *sauve qui peut!* But all cannot be saved. One has to be caught, and the choice is determined partly by chance, and partly by relative strength. When the widow of experience and resolve bears down upon her prey, the result is equally certain. Floundering avails nothing; struggling and splashing are just as futile; one among the crowd has to come to the slaughter, and to assist at his own immolation. The best thing he can do is to make a handsome surrender, and to let the world of men and brothers believe he rather likes his position than not.

But there are pleasanter types of the re-marrying widow than this. There is the widow of the Wadman kind, who has outlived her grief and is not disinclined to a repetition of the matrimonial experiment, if asked thereto by an experimenter after her own heart. But in a pretty, tender, womanly way; if not quite so timidly as a girl, yet as becomingly in her degree, and with that peculiar fascination which nothing but the combination of experience and modesty can give. The widow of the Wadman kind is no creature of prey, neither shark nor hawk; at the worst she is but a cooing dove, making just the sweetest little noise in the world, the tenderest little call, to indicate her whereabouts, and to show that she is lonely and feels it. She sits close, waiting to be found, and does not ramp and dash about like the hawk sisterhood; neither does she pretend that she is unwilling to be found, still less deny that a soft warm nest, well lined and snugly sheltered, is better than a lonely branch, stretching out comfortless and bare into the bleak wide world. She, too, is almost sure to get what she wants, with the advantage of being voluntarily chosen and not unwillingly submitted to. This is the kind of woman who is always mildly but thoroughly happy in her married life; unless indeed her husband should be a brute, which heaven forefend. She lives in peace and bland

contentment while the fates permit, and when he dies she buries him decently and laments him decorously; but she thinks it folly to spend her life in weeping by the side of his cold grave, when her tears can do no good to either of them. Rather she thinks it a proof of her love for him, and the evidence of how true was her happiness, that she should elect to give him a successor. Her blessed experience in the past has made her trustful in the future; and because she has found one man faithful she thinks that all are Abdiels. As a rule, this type of woman does find men pleasant, and by her own nature ensures domestic happiness. She is always tenderly, and never passionately, in love, even with the husband she has loved the best; she gives in to no excesses to the right or the left; her temperament is of that serene moonlight kind which does not fatigue others nor wear out its possessor; without ambition, or the power to fling herself into any absorbing occupation, she lives only to please and be pleased at home; and if she is not a wife, wearing her light fetters lovingly, and proud that she is fettered, she is nothing. As some women are born mothers and others are born nuns, so is the Wadman woman a born wife, and shines in no other character or capacity. But in this she excels; and knowing this, she sticks to her *rôle*, how frequently so ever the interlocutor may be changed.

There are widows, however, who have no thought or desire for remaining anything but widows—who have gained the worth of the world in their condition. "Jeune, riche, et veuve—quel bonheur!" says the French wife, eyeing "mon mari" askance. Can the most exacting woman ask for more? And truly such a one is in the most enviable position possibly to a woman, supposing always that she has not lost in her husband the man she loved. If she has lost only the man who sat by right at the same hearth with herself—perhaps the man who quarrelled with her across the ashes—she has lost her burden, and has gained her release. The cross of matrimony lies heavy on many a woman who never takes the world into her confidence, and who bears in absolute silence what she has not the power to cast from her. Perhaps her husband has been a man of note, a man of learning, of elevated station, a political or a philanthropic power. She alone knew the fretfulness, the petty tyranny, the miserable smallness at home of the man of large repute whom his generation conspired to honour, and whose public life was a mark for the future to date by. When he died the press wrote his eulogy and his elegy; but his widow, when she put on her weeds, sang softly in her own heart a pæan to the great King of Freedom, and whispered to herself Laudamus, with a sigh of unutterable relief. To such a woman widowhood has no sentimental regrets. She has come into possession of the goods for which perhaps she sold herself; she is young enough yet to enjoy, to project a future; she has the free choice of a maid and the free action of a matron, as no other woman has. She may be courted, and she need not be chaperoned, nor yet forced to accept. Experience has mellowed and enriched her; for though the asperities of her former condition were sharpwhile they lasted, they had not time permanently to roughen or embitter her. Then the sense of relief gladdens, while the sense of propriety subdues her; and the delicate mixture of outside melancholy, tempered with internal warmth, is wonderfully enticing. Few men know how to resist that gentle sadness which does not preclude the sweetest sympathy with pleasure in which she may not join—with happiness which is, alas! denied her. It gives an air of such profound unselfishness; it asks so mutely, so bewitchingly, for consolation. Even a hard man is moved at the sight of a pretty young widow in the funereal black of her first grief, sitting apart with a patient smile, and eyes cast meekly down, as one not of the world though in it. Her loss is too recent to admit of any thought of reparation; and yet what man does not think of that time of reparation? and if she is more than usually charming in person, and well dowered in purse, what man does not think of himself as the best repairer she could take? Then, as time goes on and she glides gracefully into the era of mitigated grief, how beautiful is her whole manner, how tasteful her attire! The most exquisite colours of the rampant kind look garish beside her dainty tints, and the untempered mirth of happy girls is coarse beside her faint subdued admission of moral sunshine. Greys as tender as a dove's breast; regal purples which have a glow behind their gloom; stately silks of sombre black, softly veiled by clouds of gauzy white—all speak of passing time, and the gradual blooming of the spring after the sadness of the winter; all symbolize the flowers which are growing over on the sod that covers the dear departed; lihint at the melting of the funereal gloom into a possible bridal. She begins too to take pleasure in the old familiar things of life. She steals into a quiet back seat at the Opera; she just walks through a quadrille; she sees no harm in a fête or flower-show, if properly companioned. Winter does not last for ever, and a life-long mourning is a wearisome prospect; so she goes through her degrees in accurate order, and comes out at the end radiant. For when the faint shadows cast by the era of mitigated grief fade away, she is the widow *par excellence*—the blooming widow, young, rich, gay, and free; with the world on her side, her fortune in her hand, and the ball at her foot. She is the freest woman alive; freer even than any old maid to be found. Freedom, indeed, comes to the old maid when too late to enjoy it; at least in certain directions; for while she is young she is necessarily in bondage, and when parents and guardians leave her at liberty, the world and Mrs. Grundy take up the reins, and hold them pretty tight. But the widow is as thoroughly emancipated from the conventional bonds which confine the free action of a maid as she is from those which fetter the wife; and only she herself knows what she has lost and gained. She bore her yoke well while it pressed on her. It galled her, but she did not wince; only when it was removed did she become fully conscious of how great had been the burden, from her sense of infinite relief. The world never knew that she had passed under the harrow; probably therefore it wonders at her cheerfulness, with the dear departed scarce two years dead; and some say how sweetly resigned she is, and others how unfeeling. She is neither. She is simply free after having lived in bondage, and she is glad in consequence. But she is dangerous. In fact, she is the most dangerous of all women to men's peace of mind. She does not want to marry again—does not mean to marry again for many years to come, if ever; granted; but that does not say that she is indifferent to admiration or careless of men's society. And being without serious intentions herself, she does not reflect that she may possibly mislead and deceive others who have no such cause as she has for bewaring of the pleasant folly. In the exercise of her prerogative as a free woman, able to cultivate the dearest friendships with men and fearlessly using her power, she entangles many a poor fellow's heart which she never wished to engage more than platonically, and crushes hopes which she had not the slightest intention to raise. Why cannot men be her friends? she asks, with a pretty, pleading look—a tender kind of despair at the wrongheadedness of the stronger sex. But, tender as she is, she does not easily yield even when she loves. The freedom she has gone through so much to gain she does not rashly throw away; and if ever the day comes when she gives it up into the keeping of another—and for all her protestations it comes sometimes—the man to whom she succumbs may congratulate himself on a victory more flattering to his vanity, and more complete in its surrender of advantages, than he could have gained over any other woman. Belle or heiress, of higher rank or of greater fame than himself, no unmarried woman could have made such a sacrifice in her marriage as did this widow of means and good looks, when she laid her freedom, her joyous present, and a potential future, in his hand. He will be lucky if he manages so well that he is never reproached for that sacrifice—if his wife never looks back regretfully to the time when she was a widow, and if there are no longing glances forward to the possibilities ahead, mingled with sighs at the difficulty of retracing a step when fairly made. On the whole, if a woman can live without love, or with nothing stronger than a tender sentimental friendship, widowhood is the most blissful state she can attain. But if she is of a loving nature, and fond of home, finding her own happiness in the happiness of others, and indifferent to freedom—thinking, indeed, feminine freedom only another word for desolation—she will be miserable until she has doubled her experience, and carried on the old into the new.

THE COINAGE OF ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

An English writer—Mr. Bagehot—recently contributed to a London periodical a very able series of articles intended to promote the assimilation of English and American money, with a preface intended to persuade his readers that, so far from ancient prescription in these matters having any weight,—any title to respect at all, save and except on the ground of habit,—all the facts go to show that the early prescriptions of all nations in respect to coinage are utterly without political value, and have grown up from the personal needs of the Sovereigns in rude times, not from any consideration to the wants or wishes of the nation whom they have governed.

English manufacturers who buy raw cotton from America, tradesmen who buy manufactured cottons from France, corn-merchants who buy wheat from Russia or America, wine merchants who buy French, or Hungarian, or Spanish, or Italian, or Greek wines, provision merchants who buy eggs or butter from Belgium, watchmakers who buy Swiss watches from Geneva or Neuchatel, toy merchants who buy toys from Nuremberg, seed merchants who buy roots from Holland, booksellers who buy Prussian, or French, or Spanish, or Italian books; and again, cloth and worsted manufacturers who send their cloths and woollens to France or Austria, cutlers who send their knives, and razors, and scissors all over the world,—these and a host of others all do feel, and feel very keenly, the great inconvenience of having to make elaborate calculations in thirty or forty different monetary systems, and to translate each separately into the English system with which alone they are practically familiar, before they can realize distinctly the unit of profit which the buying or selling of each article at a given price will realize for them. And here is the strength of Mr. Bagehot's position. He points out that the principal arguments addressed to the recent Commission on Decimal and International Coinage had a very prevalent tendency to overlook the most important of all points,—that the assimilation of moneys of account is the one thing needful for saving all this trouble, not the mere assimilation of some one important coin. For instance, suppose that by charging a seignorage on the coining of the English pound as an equivalent, the quality of the gold in the pound could be so far reduced as to be exactly, what it now very nearly is, namely, the equivalent of 25 French francs, and this without altering its circulating value in England (which must depend not only on the gold in it, but on the charge for coining it into legal tender, if any charge for coining were imposed, as is not the case at present),—suppose this, and what we should have would only be a single point of contact between the English and the French and Italian currencies,—not in any sense a common money of account. If, at the same time, a French gold coin of the exact value of 25 francs were coined, those coins would exchange against each other and be used also as money of account; but the English exporter, anxious to know at what price an article which it costs in England 7½d. to make, must sell for in France in order to make a profit, and the French exporter who wants to know at what price a French article which it costs him 2 francs 15 centimes to make, must sell for in England in order to bring him a profit, would be no better off,—or at least very little better off, for we think Mr. Bagehot puts his case too strongly,—than before. We say very little better off, for it would be possible, if there were a common point of contact between the two currencies, to make some attempt to calculate in that common coin; for instance, the Englishman might say to himself that 7½d. per article means 33 such articles for a pound, and if, therefore, he could get a French coin of equal value for a fewer number of the same articles, he could export. And so the Frenchman might say that 2 francs 15 centimes an article means rather more than 11½ for a 25-franc piece; and if, therefore, he could sell eleven or fewer in England for an English pound, he would be able to export. That is a somewhat easier calculation,—because a calculation made by each solely in his own money,—than any requiring an actual reduction of the English into foreign coinage, or the foreign coinage into English. Mr. Bagehot is, we think, going a little too far when he speaks of the gain to commerce as quite inappreciable in having one point of contact, one common coin (which might also be money of account), unless the moneys of account were wholly assimilated. Make the most we can of the benefit of one point of contact between the English coinage or money of account, and that of other nations, and it is by no means a great step in advance. Still, an elaborate calculation would be necessary before any tradesman could translate his unit of price into the foreign country's unit of price, and without this nothing really important for international purposes is gained. Moreover, the gaining of a good gold unit common to the Continental nations and England would be of little avail unless that unit were decimally sub-divided both abroad and at home. Now, the supposed gold unit, equal to 25 French francs, would not be decimally sub-divided either abroad or at home. In France the tenth part of the new coin would be 2½ francs or 250 centimes, of which the tenth again would be 25 centimes, and the next decimal subdivision 2½ centimes, so that both the centime and the frane would practically disappear as money of account altogether, if the advantages of decimal notation were to be gained; and if the frane and the centime were retained, the enormous advantage of decimal notation would be lost. Again, though in England the florin would then be really useable as decimal money of account, yet the florin would be of no use without silver and copper coins that were decimal subdivisions of the florin. But the tenth part of the florin would be two pence and two-fifths of a penny! (less, that is, than twopence-halfpenny by the tenth part of a penny), so that the penny,—the popular coin of small transactions,—would be utterly useless; and, again, the next decimal subdivision would be less than the farthing by 4 per cent., so that the farthing likewise, more valuable in most retail transactions than the penny itself, would be driven out of use. We should, then, gain no common money of account with other nations by the universal adoption of a 25-franc piece equal to one pound sterling, unless both France and England, and all other foreign nations as far as we know, completely withdrew their smaller coins, in place of which England at least would have to substitute coins entirely incommensurable with them in value. And though we do not quite agree with Mr. Bagehot that there would be no good in getting a single point of contact between the various coins and moneys of the world,—we do agree with him that it would not even be a step towards the great object,—a common money of account.

Seeing, therefore, the almost insuperable difficulty of the greater object, Mr. Bagehot proposes a change which would be comparatively easy and of very great value in itself, as it would both lead to a decimal English coinage, and a common money of account between England and America and all the great Anglo Saxon colonies, whose enormous spreading power promises to give them, not many centuries hence, the heritage of the civilized world. This proposal is to coin a new gold coin equivalent to $1 0s. 10d.,—what we should propose to call "the new guinea," as it would differ from the old guinea only by 2d. This new guinea would be almost exactly equal to the American half-eagle, or five dollar piece. It might be marked both as an English new guinea and as an American half-eagle. This piece would be in American coinage (supposing the return made to cash payments), just 500 cents, so that a five-cent piece, equal to our 2½d., would be the hundredth of the new unit, and a half cent, equal to precisely one farthing, would be the thousandth of the new unit. The new English scale would be this,—10 farthings make a doit (2½d.), 10 doits make a rupee (2s. 1d.), and 10 rupees make a new guinea (£1 0s. 10d.). And England would have the enormous advantage of a decimal scale without necessarily losing the use of any of her present coins, for as the farthing would be the lowest new coin, and all her present coins are easily expressible in farthings, there would be no difficulty at all in translating the new scale into the old, or the old into the new.

The only great objection to this proposal, which Mr. Bagehot does not advert to, is this, that, while it would be of infinite use, easily popularized, and would create a common decimal money of account for England, the United States, and all the Anglo-Saxon colonies,—it would be a step away from international community with France and the other European nations. At present, as regards large sums, the pound is at least easily translatable into francs, and francs into pounds. Divide the number of francs by 100 and multiply by 4, and you get the answer in pounds; and multiply the number of pound by 100, and divide by 4, and you get the answer in francs. But under the proposed system the new gold unit would be nearly 26 francs. The only way to approach the reduction, therefore, would be by multiplying by 26 (a rather awkward multiplier with only two factors, 2 and 13,) to get the pounds into francs, and dividing by 26 to get the francs into pounds. Those, therefore, who are thinking mainly of trade with Europe when they talk of an international and decimal coinage, would be greatly scandalized; they would think the last state of the British coinage worse than the first.

On the whole, however, we should be glad to see Mr. Bagehot's proposal accepted. (1) It would give England easily, and without any terrible blow to the intellects of the poor, a decimalized coinage. And we see no other hope of a decimal system in England comparable to this. (2) It would unify the monetary systems of a part of the commercial world, which is every day gaining in importance on all the rest. A century or two hence it seems likely that the Anglo-Saxon commerce will be more important than the whole remaining commerce of the rest of the world,—far more important than any which could possibly be conducted under any other monetary system (like the French). Though the proposed change, therefore, does not seem at all a step towards international community with Europe,—it does seem a step towards a system which in the long run will be able to impose its own terms upon Europe.

THE ITALIAN WIDOW.

A STORY IN TWO CHAPTERS.

CHAPTER II.

It is just a week since Lilian passed that sleepless night at the Villa Burcano—and still Mr. Stretton has not returned. He is on his way home now, and he hopes to reach the villa late in the evening. He had told Lilian not to write; for when he found himself obliged to go to Marseilles with Mr. Mackenzie, instead of at once returning home, he knew his movements would be uncertain, but since he had parted from his friend, the hours had passed very heavily, and he had repented his prohibition.

"I might have given dates and places at a venture," he said; "but then, she does so dislike the trouble of writing. Nearly ten days since I saw her! I wish Mackenzie had not delayed his starting so long. I am not sure that I ought to have left the dear child alone with those lazy Italian servants; I wish she had not been persuaded to change her English maid for that Francesca the Marchesa recommended. I may be fanciful, but I don't like the woman's eyes; however, Lilian has had her dear Giulia."

He did not stay in Naples, except to change horses; it seemed strange to him that, as he drew nearer the villa, he became more nervous and anxious. However, he was very close to home now. A few minutes more, and he should be looking into Lilian's sweet brown eyes again.

"I will give her a surprise," said Mr. Stretton to himself. He stopped the carriage and dismissed it, then he went on rapidly on foot to the villa.

The great gates were opened, as if he were expected; as he passed through them, he saw a boy, whom he recognized as one of the Marchesa's servants, running quickly to the house.

Mr. Stretton called to him to stop; he did not want Lilian to be made aware of his approach; the boy only ran away faster, and was out of sight in an instant.

But Stretton was thinking too much of his wife to be angry with the boy. He sprang up the steps. There was no one in the entrance—no one in the *sala* as he pushed the door open; but in the verandah, as its farther end, he caught the flutter of a white dress.

What came next he scarcely knew.

He remembered—but more as we recall a dream than a reality—that it was Giulia who stretched out both hands to greet him; that when he tried to ask for his wife, for something in the beautiful face checked his words, a most ineffable compassion beamed out of the liquid eyes, and warned him to prepare for sorrow.

Then a mist came over his memory, till he found himself lying on a couch in the verandah, and the Marchesa kneeling beside him, and watching him with tender, anxious eyes.

Slowly, but with the sureness with which one awakens from deep sleep to the sense of keen physical pain, his memory repeated one word—the word which had robbed him of consciousness.

Dead—lost to him—his Lilian, so full of bright living beauty when he left her!

He looked sternly in the sorrowful eyes still bent on him.

"Tell me it all again—when it happened, and how."

The Marchesa repeated the sad story simply and pityingly; her own grief for her friend was lost in her sympathy for the bereaved husband.

Lilian had seemed well and bright at first—had even teased her friend for being dull; but suddenly she had complained of head-ache; violent fever had come on rapidly; the Marchesa had sent for her own physician, but he, alas! was away from home when the messenger arrived, and before another doctor could reach the villa the sufferer had sunk under the violence of the disease.

The servants had taken fright, and all except the maid who had waited on Mrs. Stretton, and helped Giulia to nurse her, and departed one after another, preferring to yield up their wages rather than run the dreaded risk of infection.

Stretton listened with a frowning face, his hands grasping the sofa cushions as if they offered some power of resistance. He could not submit to this terrible grief. Why was his life to be turned into night at the very daybreak of happiness?

"When? you have not said when?"

He spoke with an air of sullen doubt.

The sweet, angel-like compassion in her eyes rebuked him; but he did not feel sorry. What was any suffering he might inflict compared to the mighty, unutterable anguish that had turned his heart in the full bounding of joy to a stone? His Lilian was gone from him, lost to him for ever! Buried by strangers' hands and among strangers! He felt thankful then for the difference of creed which at one time he had feared might have caused want of sympathy between them. If Lilian had not belonged to the Roman Church, probably the rites of burial might have been denied her altogether.

The Marchesa asked him presently if he would like to see the Padre Anselmo.

"No!" He got up from the sofa, very pale and haggard, the ghost of the ardent man who had come into the *sala* so short a while ago.

"I will only ask you to take me where she lies. I want no comfort from any living creature."

Days passed on, and still Gilbert Stretton stayed at the Villa Burcano, and the Marchesa stayed there too. She told herself that she could not leave her poor friend's husband in his despairing sorrow; besides, she filled the places of his runaway servants with her own, so that it seemed like home to her.

In the depths of her heart she knew that her only home now was beside Gilbert Stretton. Among her Italian friends she was called cold, haughty, indifferent; to him she was as humble, as devoted as an Indian.

At first he seemed to shrink from her kind care, and to resist any attempt at considering him an invalid; but the shock had been too sudden, and his lassitude and weakness increased every day.

Giulia grew alarmed; but Mr. Stretton steadily refused to consult an Italian doctor. "There is nothing really the matter with me," he said.

She looked at him earnestly:

"My friend, if you saw your changed face with my eyes you would let me send for Doctor Lista."

The thrill in her voice attracted him; he saw that her eyes were full of tears.

Once more he took the slender white fingers in his own and put them to his lips, and this time the hand lay warm and trembling in his, without an effort to withdraw it.

"You are too anxious about me," he said, "and your anxiety makes you think me worse than I am. I am infecting you with my sadness."

He looked up, smiling.

There met him in the dark eyes bending over his couch a passionate glance of love, and the strange, chill foreboding returned which his first meeting with the Marchesa had created. He let Giulia's hand fall, and pressed his own to his eyes.

The Marchesa moved away, and it seemed to Stretton that his coldness had pained her. How devoted her care of him had been! Lilian even could scarcely have surpassed it.

Raising himself on his elbow, he looked round at her. Yes, she was going out of the *sala*, her queenly head bent, an indefinable expression of humiliation, at least so he thought, in her whole figure. He felt a keen pang of self-reproach. If during his illness this Italian had learned to love him, ought not her devotion to demand his pity and gratitude rather than his condemnation? He had always known that the temperaments of southern women were not to be judged by those of their English sisters; he ought to show her all the more tender consideration because he had no love to offer. In a few days he should leave Naples for ever; why should not this short time be made happy to this woman, who had done so much for him?

And meantime, while a month had passed since Lilian's death, and while Gilbert Stretton had been lingering, broken-spirited and unnerved, at the Villa Burcano, all around had been in a state of ferment. A rising was expected daily, and all sorts of unoffending travellers were constantly brought into Naples as Garibaldian spies. At any other time Giulia would have been deeply interested. She detested the Liberal movement, and would have joined ardently in opposing it; but Gilbert Stretton was her all now, of life, or country, or creed.

His softened manner, the tenderness of his thanks, fed her hopes every hour; she was becoming intoxicated with her approaching joy, for she had not thought he would soon forget Lilian—and surely he had almost forgotten her.

But the rising was coming—it was close at hand.

Far away in a convent at Milan, a fair young English wife was already weeping over the fate of her husband; she had just got the news that he had been found in arms as a Garibaldian, and had been shot without mercy. Poor little weeping English girl! when first she learned that her husband was with the Garibaldians, she had fled from her Italian home in the hope of joining him; but her escort had proved either stupid or faithless, and had conducted her to Milan instead of taking her to one of the towns nearer Rome. She knew a friend of the Superior of the religious house to which her guide led her, and she soon arranged to stay there till she could learn definitely where her husband might be found. But within those quiet walls news came long after it was known elsewhere, and before any public rumour of open strife had reached the convent, a friendly letter had told her husband's fate. Now prostrate before a crucifix in her plain whitewashed room, her eyes streaming with the tears caused by the open letter beside her, she was taking farewell of the outer life, and all its pomps and pleasures, and vowing herself in thought to dwell for ever in the quiet, merciful home she had found with the good sisters. She took up the letter again and read it carefully; it was written in a woman's hand, and it was signed "Giulia."

This time the tears did not gush forth with the same uncontrollable violence; she rose up from her knees, and stood thinking.

"I will do nothing hastily," she said. "He," and a long shuddering sigh burst through her words, "always told me no to act on impulse, and I will obey him now. I will wait a little, till these tidings can be confirmed by some outward proof—and then—well, if I am alive then," and her sobs burst forth again unrestrainedly, "I will ask the Superior to admit me into the Sisterhood."

It was just such an evening as that on which we last saw Gilbert Stretton. The light was not quite the same; the foliage of the clinging vines had changed to glorious tints of orange and crimson, burnished now into almost metallic radiance as the late intense sunlight touched them: in all ways the year was some weeks older, but to the Marchesa it seemed as if time had gone back. She looked years younger; her beauty had lost the statuesque paleness that it had possessed on her first visit to the Villa Barcano; life and love glanced in every look and movement.

She had been sitting in the verandah, waiting for Gilbert. He always sate there with her in the evening, and she had noticed joyfully that for more than a week he had not spoken of Lilian. She could hear her heart beating as he came through the entrance into the *sala* which ran along the back of the house. I have said before that it fronted the garden and the terrace overhanging the shore.

Mr. Stretton's step sounded less weary than usual, and Giulia saw almost the old light in his eyes.

She had looked in his face with a warm welcome glowing in her own; but his first words stupefied her—seemed to make her heart stand still with sudden terror.

"Going to England!" Had she heard him rightly? She pushed back her hair with both hands and gazed straininngly at him as if she would reach the truth. Something of consciousness in his face puzzled her. "Ah!" and the sudden thought came, "he is trying me—he is not sure of my love;" and with the thought, the horrible agony of losing him from any mistake—any want of openness between them—the life-blood went scorching through her veins like lava.

"To England!—to leave me!—oh! Mr. Stretton!—Gilbert—you could not be so cruel!"

She had thrown herself on her knees before he could restrain her, her beautiful arms, from which the muslin sleeves fell back, raised towards him.

He bent over her, tried to raise her and soothe her; but she would not rise, would not listen; she only repeated, her hands now holding his, that if he left her there was nothing for her to do in the world but to die of his cruelty.

He did not know how to answer her. He reproached himself now for the mistake into which he saw he had led her, and as he looked down on this exquisite woman kneeling before him in such utter shame and self-abandonment, for a moment he asked himself if it would be impossible to return, in some measure, the love she had betrayed for him.

And yet it was a relief to be prevented from answering, to hear quick footsteps approaching, coming nearer and nearer—so near now that even Giulia was forced to acknowledge their presence, and to rise to her feet.

As she rose she faced the garden, interposing herself between Stretton and the front of the verandah. She saw several persons coming up from the water terrace, and something irresistible seemed to fascinate her eyes on their movements. She saw one small, slight figure sign to the rest to stop, and then turn round hastily towards the villa.

The light was fading every instant; but as this figure—a woman—reached the foot of the steps, her face was raised towards the verandah, and Giulia recognised it.

For an instant the Marchesa looked round desperately, as we do in danger for a weapon to rid us of something whose presence we fear; then she hastened swiftly past Gilbert, and was out of the *sala* before he had roused from the surprise her strange change of manner had caused him.

But when he roused, it was not to think of Giulia. He heard his name called in a voice that quivered through him with joyful terror, for it was Lilian's! and then, when she had called his name twice or thrice, so as to assure him of her presence, Lilian's arms were round his neck, Lilian's lips were pressed to his, and he held her—no impalpable vision of his imagination, but warm with love and hope and thrilling with happiness—a real living Lilian in his arms!

It took some time to make Gilbert understand the fraud that had been practised, for Lilian was too full of happiness to vouch safe any coherent explanation of her sudden appearance; but little by little, and with the assistance of the friends who had accompanied her, he learned all. How, just a week ago, on the very day when Lilian had at length resolved to make her request to be received as a probationer to the Superior of the Milanese convent, she had been summoned to the parlour to see visitors. These were two English ladies, her aunt and her cousin, who had recognised her at Vespers in the convent chapel on the previous evening. From them Lilian learned the story of her own supposed death, and, to her unspeakable amazement, read her husband's reply to her aunt's letter of condolence, dated a full week after that of the Marchesa announcing his tragical fate.

Fortunately, her aunt was a clever, energetic woman, and she at once suspected the Marchesa, and decided on seeking Mr. Stretton at the Villa Barcano.

It was difficult to convince Lilian of her friend's treachery. On the morning when the Marchesa returned to the villa, after destroying Mr. Stretton's letter, she told his wife that he had sent news by a spy that he had joined the Garibaldians, and when Lilian asked to see the messenger, Giulia told her the man dared not enter the grounds, as he was liable to be arrested, being a known patriot.

At first Mrs. Stretton had been incredulous; but a whole day passed away without news from her husband, and she grew anxious. Giulia told her that, if she persisted in remaining at the villa, her husband would certainly attempt to join her there, and would as certainly attempt to join her there, and would as certainly be arrested and shot; the only chance of escape both for her and for Mr. Stretton was to go away quietly northwards and await the approach of the Garibaldians on their way to Rome. Meantime the Marchesa would try to find a peasant who should carry Lilian's letter to her husband in the rebel camp. Lilian had yielded against her better judgment to the strong will and adroit management of her friend.

Giulia dismissed her secretly with a guide, who had private instructions to convey Mrs. Stretton to Milan instead of taking her towards Rome; and the Marchesa and Francesca spread the alarm of fever, and frightened the ignorant Italian household into flight. Then, surrounded by her own dependents, it was easy for Giulia to evade medical interference, and to carry out the plan of a mock funeral and burial.

"I will never have likes or dislikes that you don't approve, darling; perhaps"—the sweet brown eyes sparkled mirthfully for an instant—"if I had been a day later, Gilbert, I might have lost my husband as well as my friend."

"God forbid!" Gilbert Stretton shuddered, even while he held his wife close to his heart, at the thought of the beautiful fiend from whom he had escaped.

The Marchesa never re-appeared in Naples: she sold her palace, dismissed all her servants, and went away, it was said, to a grim castle among the Apennines, where her father's brother lived in a solitude more suited to a monk than a nobleman.

THE IRISH CHURCH AND DISESTABLISHMENT.

That the contemplated measure or measures for dealing with the Irish Church will involve, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, much difficulty and call for the exercise of much statesmanship is a truism. But it is necessary to fix the mind with some attention to the distinction between political difficulties and what we may term mechanical difficulties. The first regard the things to be done, the extent of disestablishment or disendowment to be effected, the relation in which the disestablished Church is to be left towards the State and constituted authority, the disposal of the funds which may be placed at the discretion of Parliament when the work is accomplished. The others regard merely the machinery by which it is to be accomplished, the manner in which legal provision is to be made for throwing aside that of which it is determined to get rid, retaining without injury those rights of property which it is resolved to maintain, and substituting the freedom of action which is essential to an unestablished Church for the legal trammels in which it is now involved.

Now, it is a common artifice with the opponents of the cause of disestablishment, and not an uncommon mistake among its supporters, to confound together these two classes of difficulties, which have really nothing in common. We hear it every day repeated, that the abolition of the State Church in Ireland is a thing much easier threatened than *done*; that the obstacles in the way of the task are such as practically to defy the efforts of a Government, even if more united in action and more fertile in resource than Mr. Gladstone's is likely to prove. "It is one thing, and an easy thing," the Quarterly Reviewer triumphantly tells us, "for a popular assembly to 'resolve' that a deed shall be done; it is a very different and much harder thing for a statesman to embody that resolve in fitting, workable, possible legislation." And he proceeds to suggest a whole series of ingenious crotchets, which he duly elevates into the rank of insoluble problems. Let us test their importance by a little closer inquiry.

We set aside those which really arise from indecision as to the end aimed at, not from difficulties as to the manner of doing what may be determined. No doubt many excellent reformers have no clearer idea of what they want than Lord Russell seems to have arrived at. People have not all made up their minds whether disendowment should be entire or partial, what should be done with the sequestered property, what portions of the property should be left to its present possessors, whether the spiritual independence of the future Church should be absolute or restrained by law, and so forth. Very well: these are questions on which the introducers of the measure have to make their minds up, and to carry their party along with them, and to win the assent of the country. But suppose this done, what remains? The mechanical difficulty only: the difficulty of reducing the scheme, thus elaborated, into satisfactory legal shape. And this supposed difficulty is so ingeniously mixed up by reasoners like our friend of the *Quarterly* with the political embarrassments of the case, that frightened readers feel themselves as if bewildered in some castle, such as we lose our way in under nightmare dreams, full of doors without issue, and passages which lead to nothing. We believe that to disentangle the two classes of difficulties, and to show that the latter—the mechanical—present really no obstacles at all, but can be overcome with a reasonable amount of good sense and legal ingenuity, would relieve a good many well-wishers to the cause from a mist of vague apprehension.

Let us take the first step—the abolition of the State character of the Church. It may not be generally remembered that for this operation we have two precedents in point, and that the institutions created in those two cases are found to work with perfect ease. In Victoria and Canada, the Church of England was relieved of its State connection, and placed under a legislature and executive of its own, by very simple enactments. Nor was the latter, at all events, an experiment on a small scale. Probably Canada contains, at this time, more Anglican inhabitants than Ireland. All that was done for Canada amounted to this. The local enactment authorised the bishops, clergy, and laity to "meet in their several dioceses and frame constitutions for enforcing discipline in the Church;" for the appointment and removal of officers, and for the management of property. The appointment of bishops—that great stumbling-block of the Quarterly Reviewer—is not expressly conceded by the Act, but it is so, apparently, by implication, and this has been recognized in practice. And in the same manner the entire Church is authorized to meet in general assembly by representatives to be elected by the several dioceses. Strange as it may appear to people resolved to see only the obstructive side of things, this boldly devised constitution has actually worked. The Church of England in Canada is organized on the footing of the Episcopal Churches of the United States and of Scotland, and, thus far, has shown itself only the healthier for the operation to which it has been subjected.

In the case of Ireland, it would be convenient further to add that the existing law of the Church, its liturgy, formularies, and so forth, should remain as at present until altered by the "synod," or general assembly. Whether this power of change should be absolute or qualified only—so as to preclude its rulers from entirely dissolving the union with the Church of England—must be decided by the framers of the measure; for our own parts, we are satisfied that the freedom ought to be absolute. It should be so for the purpose of the general effectiveness and development of the institution. But it should be so, likewise, even in the interest of prolonged harmony. Compulsive union between Churches, where neither has the distinct power to enforce it, is but a provocation to schism. It is necessary to add that, in one respect, our precedent will not completely guide us. Ecclesiastical law, as in force in Great Britain and Ireland, did not exist in Canada. The Royal supremacy was acknowledged in theory, but the Crown, it was considered, had no power to invest the bishops or the Church courts, by prerogative, with coercive jurisdiction. Consequently, the only mode of enforcing Church of England discipline by law in Canada was, and is, through the doctrine of trusts, enforced by courts of law, as in the case of Dissenting bodies in England. With regard to Ireland, it will be necessary to decide whether the enfranchised Church shall continue subject to ecclesiastical law, as at present, or placed on the same footing in this respect with the Dissenting bodies of which we have spoken. Whichever of these alternatives were selected, the rest would be only matter of workmanship, and not, as far as we can see, of very difficult workmanship.

The next problem is how to deal with the property of the existing establishment. The first charge on it would be the satisfaction of existing interests. Here, again, the concoction of an equitable scheme would require care and forethought; but, the principles once established, the mode of execution would be settled with ease. Let us now assume that the Government measure contemplates that (subject to existing interests) the whole tithe and glebe property of the Establishment should be taken from it, and nothing left to it but what it has acquired

by private donation in Protestant times; which seems to be the most popular proposal. It would be necessary to empower the general, or the diocesan, assemblies (or synods, if the name be deemed more ecclesiastical in sound) to constitute bodies of trustees for the management of this reserved property, and of such as might be subsequently acquired. How to deal with existing buildings and places of worship is not a very easy problem: it would probably have to be dealt with by special enactment, the terms [of which we will not pause now to consider.

Lastly arises what may be termed the residuary question: what is to be done with the surplus fund, to arise from the property of which the abstract Church of Ireland will have been deprived, after deduction both of what is required to save harmless existing interests and of the reserved portion above alluded to? This will become national instead of Church property, subject to such uses as Parliament may appoint for it. To determine what those uses are to be is, indeed, a matter deep and dangerous, though less so from its real importance than from the passions which it will arouse and the lasting enmities which it may create. Better for Ireland that the "surplus" were sunk in the sea than that it were devoted to any new sectarian purposes; and nothing more hard than to fix on secular purposes at once useful and attainable. But, to revert to our former distinction, these are difficulties of policy, not difficulties of machinery. Once decide on the purposes, and it will probably be no severe tax on the wit of an ordinary parliamentary draftsman to put into shape the necessary provisions. There is, therefore (to sum up what has been suggested), much reason for fixing very cautiously our principles of action, but, these once fixed, no real reason for apprehending difficulties in the ancillary work of execution. Let our chief engineers mark out the road which we are to travel, and their assistants will "build" the road, and place it in order for use, even before the critics have done proving that the task is impossible.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

The convention between the United States and Great Britain is closely connected with a general question of the widest importance, which is capable of being discussed without reference to the somewhat obscure terms of the convention itself, and on which it may be worth while to make some observations. It may very naturally be asked of England, Why are you willing that the question of the *Alabama* claims should be referred to arbitration, and unwilling that the question of recognition should be referred to arbitration? If you will agree to regard as doubtful the question whether the English nation may not have shown undue negligence in not preventing the *Alabama* from sailing from Liverpool, why do you refuse to admit that you have been wrong in recognising the belligerent rights of the Confederate States? The answer is, Because the one question clearly lies beyond, whilst the other probably lies within, the line which forms, so to speak, the natural limit of international arbitration. Whether the question of the *Alabama* claims lies within or without that limit, especially when regard is had to the form in which the reference has been made, is a question which we do not at present propose to discuss. It will be sufficient for our present purpose to show what are the reasons which lead us to regard the question whether the recognition of the belligerent rights of the Confederates was right or wrong as lying clearly beyond the line. In order to explain the grounds of this view it is necessary to point out shortly the true nature of the analogy between the settlement of international questions. A lawsuit or a legal arbitration between private persons corresponds to a war between nations. Each is an appeal to force. The difference between the two cases is simply this, that in a question between individuals the difficulty is to ascertain in which direction the force to which both appeal, the force of law, will operate. When that question is decided no one dreams of resistance. On the other hand, as between nation and nation, there is no difficulty at all in ascertaining in which direction the force appealed to will operate if it is once set in motion. Each country will, of course, fight for its own view, and the difficulty is to ascertain by direct experiment which is the stronger. The fact that the conflict takes place at a different point in the process is very apt to conceal the truth and to lead people to suppose that a lawsuit between individuals resembles not war between nations but international arbitrations. This delusion is favoured by the unfortunate circumstance that the word "arbitration" happens to be the name of a particular kind of private awsuit.

An arbitration between nation and nation answers to a process between individuals for which we have no very appropriate name, but which may, perhaps, be called an honorary as distinguished from a legal arbitration. A legal arbitration is just as much a legal proceeding as an action at law. The arbitrator's award is enforced substantially in the same manner as the verdict of a jury, and a reference to such an arbitration is as much an appeal to force as any other sort of lawsuit. If two persons were to agree that they would be morally but not legally bound by the decision of a third person, and if their confidence in each other's honour were such that they were satisfied with this arrangement, they would be in a position precisely analogous to that of two nations which have agreed to refer a matter to arbitration. Let us now consider what are the natural limits by which the various modes of settling individual or international differences are limited.

Take first the case of wars between nations and lawsuits between individuals. It is self-evident that there are questions of such overwhelming importance to nations and to men that it is impossible for those who are interested in them to do less than their very utmost to carry their point. If the honour or independence of a nation, or the character or the bulk of the property of an individual, are at stake, they must of course be defended. No system of arbitration between nation and nation could ever have settled such quarrels as those which led to the Spanish Armada or the Thirty Years' War, or to several, at all events, of the group of wars which followed the French Revolution. No man of the most ordinary spirit would ever allow his character to be blasted or his prospects in life destroyed by any force less than the irresistible force of the law of the land, nor would he submit to a hostile decision from that so long as any amount of expense or trouble could give him a chance of reversing it.

What, then, are the cases in which nations and individuals may and ought, if they are wise and honourable, to stop short of the *ultima ratio* of law or war, as the case may be? The answer is that if they are wise they will do so in every case which on the one hand is not of such importance that no consideration ought to induce the parties to give up the object which they have in view, and which on the other hand results in some definite issue. In other words, questions which can be properly referred to honorary as distinguished from coercive arbitration are those cases which are important though not vitally important, and which lead to a definite result, such, for instance, as the payment of a disputed claim, the adjustment of a boundary, or the like. Questions, on the other hand, which are unfit for arbitration are questions which are of vital importance or questions which do not admit of or tend to any definite conclusion.

Let us consider how these principles apply to the proposal to refer the question whether the English people were right or wrong in recognising the belligerent rights of the Confederates. It seems to us that it is altogether unfit to be referred, because the reference could lead to no definite result. If a money claim is founded upon it, that claim must be made coextensive with all the naval losses which the Northern States sustained in the civil war. If it is not made the ground of a specific claim, the reference is useless. All the decisions in the world can have no effect upon a matter of feeling and opinion. Suppose some third person were to say that the English recognising the South had behaved well or ill, as the case might be, to the Americans, could that decision be anything more than the expression of a single person's opinion? Could it produce any other effect than an idle gratification to the vanity of the one country, and an equally useless mortification to the feelings of the other? It is obvious to every one who will consider the matter fairly that the question of the recognition of belligerent rights is emphatically a question of policy, and that it has not the most remote analogy to a question of law. The matter is one upon which it is impossible to lay down general rules, and which must, from the nature of things, depend upon the different circumstances of every particular case as it arises. Whether a belligerent is or is not to be recognized must always be a matter of discretion, and whether that discretion has been exercised in a courteous and friendly spirit, and with a sound judgment as to the facts to which it is applied, must always be as little susceptible of any exact determination as the question whether a man's manners are good, or whether a woman's face is handsome. It is unworthy either of serious men or of great nations to consent, for the sake of flattering national vanity, to refer to arbitration such a question as this.

The unsatisfactory manner in which the convention has been drawn makes it difficult to say precisely what has and what has not been referred for arbitration, but we may observe, that there is a great difference between submitting Mr. Seward's lengthy speculations to the Commissioners for what they are worth in reference to the specific money claims made on account of the depredations of the *Alabama*, and authorising them to deliver judgment upon the question whether recognition itself was right or wrong, and did or did not cause damage to the Americans. The subject matter of the reference as defined by the first words of the convention is "claims.... made upon the Government of her Britannic Majesty on the part of citizens of the United States, and upon the Government of the United States on the part of subjects of her Britannic Majesty." These words could hardly include general damages supposed to be caused to the United States by the recognition of the Confederates, and it would be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, even to assert that any particular individual had sustained any specific damage thereby. It appears clear to us, however, that a matter of such importance ought not to be left open to doubts or disputes founded upon the interpretation of an ambiguous document.

Current Topics.

The Lists of Tenders for the Intercolonial Railway as published in the Ontario and Quebec papers, make about three columns. It is calculated by some that the road will not cost over $34,000 a mile, and that the entire cost will be only $10,800,000, a sum within the guaranteed three millions sterling. It is rather too soon however to count the cost of the road when completed, but the Government has give the contracts to those who tendered lowest, and it deserves credit for so doing. It remains to be seen whether the road can be built for the prices offered.

The Toronto *Leader* calls attention to the recent "Ministerial crisis" in New Brunswick. For some time past the local government of that Province has not been in very good odor, and although there have been several vacancies it has been difficult to prevail upon public men to join their fortunes with it. The embarrassment has been still further increased by the resignation of Mr. Des Brisay owing to disagreement with his colleagues as to the bestowal of the office of Surveyor-General. The Wetmore Government is now reduced to five members, barely a quorum, and the chances are that it will cease to exist altogether soon after the opening of the next session of the Legislature.

In the Registrar-General's bill of mortality for 1868 we find that 208 persons were killed by horses or vehicles in the streets of London during the year. Of this number 130 were 20 years of age and upwards, the remainder were from under 10 and up to 15 years. Now it is well known that most of these are deaths which need not have happened, and that they are the consequence of reckless or of unskilful driving. Every year the question becomes more important—can nothing be done to prevent this deplorable waste of life? and its importance is heightened by the fact that for one person killed there are three or four knocked down, some of whom are crippled for life.

By way of celebrating the tenth anniversary of his birthday in a manner befitting his rank, "Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Victor Albert of Prussia" (the son of the Princess Royal of England) "has been appointed second lieutenant in the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, and been placed *à la suite* of the 1st battalion (the Berlin battalion) of the 2nd Regiment of Landwehr Guards." On the morning of the eventful day his Royal grandfather and Commander-in-Chief presented the young Prince, who is a fine boy for his age, with his first uniform and the insignia of the Order of the Black Eagle. The Prince, having duly equipped himself with the appurtenances of his new dignity, in accordance with military etiquette reported himself to the King, who was graciously pleased to express his satisfaction with the military bearing of the new officer. A child's party at the Crown Prince's Palace concluded the day.

The London *Daily News* comments upon the modern fashion of jewellery, which is so variable that ladies must of necessity wear false gems and electro-gilt settings. A girl is expected to change her ornaments almost as often as her dress; and unless amongst very rich people indeed, this cannot be done without a little innocent deception in the way of brooches and bracelets. The sweepers of the ladies' gallery in the House found a Brummagem trinket the other day, which was said to have belonged to a person of quality. Certainly wonderful improvements have been made in the craft of imitating jewellery, although we believe that genuine precious stones and metal will always find a market, for the simple reason that to buy them is always to procure a certain intrinsic value for money; while an outlay in paste and inferior enamel is, after awhile, as much thrown away as if it were spent in cigars or cabs.

It is now definitively arranged that the Prince and Princess of Wales are to visit Constantinople after their tour in Egypt. An application has been made to the Porte to allow the frigate in which they will perform the voyage to pass the Dardanelles, and this permission has been granted, the vessel being for the time equipped merely as a Royal yacht, and her passage to the Bosphorus in no way infringing, therefore, the rule lately laid down respecting men of war. A Cairo correspondent says, after referring to the new theatre which has been inaugurated by the Viceroy of Egypt, that nearly all the best translators in the government offices have been diverted from their usual work to turn Offenbach's operas and the Palais Royal pieces into Arabic, and that the business of half the departments is consequently at a standstill.

Lord Provost Chambers, writing from Mentone to Professor Simpson, says—"I do not need to remind you, Sir James, how many of our best citizens perish before they are sixty years of age through sheer hanging on too long to their professional avocations. They temporise by going annually out of town for a month or two, which no doubt carries them on, but the weight of business is still on their mind; and at length, through sundry entanglements their day of safety is gone. A cold November finishes them, and about two o'clock on a wintry afternoon, they are, in the pomp of hearse and carriages, decorously conducted to the burying-ground. A celebrated French writer on hygiene has a theory that dying at anything under 100 years of age is all a mistake—that it is people's own blame, or the blame of their progenitors, if they die earlier. I would allow a discount of ten per cent., and take ninety as a fair thing. The art of living to ninety is, however, I fancy, not very generally understood; or, if understood, is neglected. Lord Brougham was up to it. He went off at the right time every year to Cannes, cheating alike the winter and the gravedigger as long as flesh and blood could do so."

The Irish bishops do not seem to grow wiser. After receiving the refusal of the Government to allow the old Irish Convocation to meet at the present juncture, they have, with one dissentient the Bishop of Down and Connor, put forth a document declaring, indeed, their wish to co-operate with the laity, but paying the laity so little respect that they do not wait for their opinion, but declare flatly that they have no right to regard the threatened changes as inevitable, and "are bound to protest against and resist them." After this, their warmly expressed wish to co-operate with the laity can only mean to co-operate with them provided always that they (the laity) shall agree with the bishops in feeling "bound to protest against and resist" the coming changes. The Bishops are not even as polite as the Scotch girl in the song; she did promise an equivalent for agreeable counsel:—

> "Come, counsel, dear Titty, don' tarry,
> I'll gif ye my bonny black hen
> Gin you will advise me to marry
> The man I lo'e dearly, Tam Glen;"

but the Bishops don't offer the laity anything for giving their agreeable counsel; on the contrary, they expect the laity both to give their pleasant advice, and pecuniary subsidies as well. The Bishop of Down and Connor has at least the merit of seeing and saying that this is indecent.

Sporting.

There have been no important matches of late in the billiard world, but the forthcoming tournament in April is looked forward to with interest, and the entries for it are increasing. The time for the deciding game between Dion and Foster has not yet been fixed, and doubts are entertained as to whether it will be played.

The Columbia Yacht Club, of this city, is actively preparing for the contests of the approaching season. The yachts comprising the fleet are as follows:—Sloops—Lillie, 30 feet, Commodore J. A. Weaver; Delia, 32 feet, W. H. Rowe; Ethalind, 25 feet, Vice Commodore C. F. Tompkins; Unknown, 23 feet, James Skillen; Noname, 28 feet, Gage and Bells; Golden Arrow, 20 feet, R. Wilson; Skip Jack, 17 feet, F. Many. Cat-rigged—Onward, 23 feet, P. Weatherby; Uncle Ben, 23 feet, R. Weaver; Lurline, 20 feet, Osborn and Hanlon.

The annual meeting of the Atlantic Yacht Club, for the election of officers for the ensuing year, took place at the club room, Brooklyn, on Monday evening last, when the following ticket was elected:—Commodore—William Voorhis, yacht Gracie; Vice Commodore—T. W. Sheridan, yacht Alarm; Rear Commodore—J. R. Maxwell, yacht Daphne; Secretary—Robert A. Granniss; Treasurer—H. H. Hogins; Measurer—H. A. Gouge. The first spring regatta of the club for the season of 1869 will take place on Tuesday, June 8. The fleet will sail from this port on its annual cruise July 24, rendezvousing at Whitestone.

The crews of both the Oxford and the Cambridge University Boat Clubs are in training for the usual annual race on the Thames, which is expected to be rowed on the 20th inst.

A match between Roberts, the English billiard champion, and Dufton was played at Haverstock Hill on the 11th ult. The match was an exhibition one of 1000 up, Dufton receiving 300 start. Play commenced at 8:25, and Roberts began work in earnest by putting together 31 after the usual misses; this he quickly followed up by breaks of 23, 14, 79, and 44, making his 231 to Dufton's 335 after only 28 minutes' play. Runs of 23, 18, and 36, caused the Champion to get still closer to his opponent, who now was only 10 in front, their numbers being called, Dufton 374, Roberts (who had just contributed a break of 41, which included 8 spot strokes) 364. Dufton then added a good 28 and completed his first hundred. Now the last named woke up a little, and, although luck was dead against him, rapidly went away again with the lead, he, making breaks of 24, 15, and 41, failing to enlarge the figures of the last by a miss cue. Game—Dufton 487, Roberts 395. By the aid of 46, 10, and other small runs, the Champion reached 500, when the interval took place, Dufton having just previously added a break of 32, making his number 541. On resuming play in 20 minutes' time, Roberts finished his break, he having contributed 45 before he failed to score. An addition of 24 by the Champion caused the marker to announce "537 all." Dufton now put on 30 and 25 in rapid succession, but his opponent, by breaks of 23, 90, (15 spot strokes), 46, 20, 26, and 74, soon went a long way ahead, Dufton being only 626 to Roberts's 861. The former at this point made his largest break for the evening, viz., a fine one of 63, which he followed up by another of 35; but all this was of no avail, as Roberts, with two breaks of 45 and 44, won the game at 11:35 by 246 points, thus taking revenge for the previous defeat he received at Dufton's hands.

Mr. Gristwood, of Clewer Court Farm, near Windsor, who has the sole right of using a net in the River Thames, bounding on his lands between the Rushes and Brocas Clump, caught at one haul at Clewer Point, a little above Windsor Bridge, five bushels of fine pike, perch, and other fish, weighing 4001bs., which he generously distributed amongst his friends and neighbours.

A rare sea monster has just been caught with a hook and line about three miles from the Eddystone Lighthouse. The fish is nine feet long and near four feet in girth, and weighs about three

hundred weight. Its colour is of a dark brown on the back, changing to a light brown with a tinge of red towards and on the belly. Every part of the fish is covered with sharp spines, much like those on the common thornback ray. The largest spines are of an inch in diameter. From the dents which are visible around the body it is pretty evident that the monster has enemies, and been engaged in battles. Mr. Dunn, of Mevagissey, who writes about the fish, says—"Who are its enemies I cannot imagine, but the dents and scars around its body tell of the battles fought. In some of its conflicts it would seem as if several of the spines near the tail had been torn off, with a considerable portion of the skin; but these places are now healed, which give the fish a very ancient appearance. I suppose the name of this fish to be the spinous shark. It had been cut open and salted, and in it were found seventeen eggs of various sizes, the largest I should guess to be six ounces. From the forward state of the largest I should suppose it would have produced its young early this spring."

Sir Joseph Hawley has postponed his resolutions as to two-year-olds till a meeting of the London Jockey Club, which will be held about the time of Epsom races; and in the meantime there is every promise of the movement gathering strength. Colonel Forester has provided for the contingency of Sir Joseph's resolutions being lost by a couple of other resolutions—that no two year-old shall run before the 1st of May; and that no two year-old shall start for any handicap before the 1st of September. And, further, Lord Coventry has given notice of a proposal that on and after the 1st of January, 1870, no horse shall carry in any race a lighter weight than six stone. An influential section of the sporting world is evidently uneasy about the tendency of the present system of racing to injure the breed of horses, and anxious to interpose some check; but it is idle to disguise that there are enormous interests ranged on the other side with which it will be difficult to cope. The mere gambling element has acquired a predominance on the turf which bodes ill for reform. There is, however, one practical measure which might be carried without much difficulty, and which would be at any rate a step in the right direction. The Queen's Plates of £100 each are at present simply so much money thrown away. According to the 13th Geo. II. c. 19, by which these prizes were instituted, they were intended to encourage the breeding of "strong and useful horses." Nobody can pretend that, whatever may once have been their effect, they are of the slightest use in that way now. The sum is too paltry compared with the standard of stable expenses to tempt any owner to run a horse in four-mile heats, under heavy weights. The very term "plater" has passed into a byeword of opprobrium and contempt. But what a small prize utterly fails to do a large prize might, in some measure, accomplish. The Queen's Plates in the aggregate form a fund of about £4,000. Why should not this be divided into a couple of hand some plates, which, with some addition in the shape of sweepstakes, would be really worth running for? Or it might even be offered in a lump. In either case it would be expended to some purpose, which is more than can be said at present. Of course, the races with which it would be connected must necessarily be for mature horses over a stiff course, with substantial weights.

I was following on the blood spoor of a bear which I had wounded in the morning—writes a correspondent—and had carried on the track into very dense jungle, so much so that I gave up all chances of finding my game. My rifle I handed to one of the beaters, whom I directed to follow me as best he could, and, going ahead of the rest of the men, I got into a very rocky precipitous ravine. This I descended as best I could, climbing over the immense boulders on my hands and knees, taking care at the same time to keep a very sharp look out every step I took, as at any moment I might have come on the wounded bear. After I had proceeded in this way for some sixty or eighty yards, I turned round to my gun carrier and remarked that I thought I heard some low sound not unlike the groan of some wounded animal; but he quite laughed at the idea, and on I went, never even taking the precaution to have my rifle in my hand. Coming at last on a very large rock, I had to slide down on my back some ten or twelve feet, when great was my consternation, as may well be imagined, at finding I stood face to face with a tiger, there being only some six or seven feet between us, and so close that I could see clean into the mouth of the roaring brute. To bolt was out of the question, and there I remained, staring the animal straight in the face till he turned away. Seizing my rifle from the awe-stricken beater, I was in the act of going ahead, when off he bolted. Levelling my rifle, I soon brought him round, and threatened to shoot him if he attempted to leave me. Crawling through the underbush as best I could, I thought by chance I might get a pot shot at my formidable opponent; but he had vanished into thick impenetrable jungle, never to be seen again. My shikarees, with the spare rifles, on hearing the roaring of the tiger had soon found their way to the spot, and on examining it more minutely we found it to be the tiger's regular lair, the ground being well trodden down and covered with hair. A beautiful place he had selected, indeed; under a large rock, where it was both cool and shady, and well away from the haunts of man—such a place that none but the eager sportsman in the pursuit of game would ever venture to trespass near. Well might I be thankful that I had thus escaped being torn to pieces, for had I turned, my fate would undoubtedly have been sealed; and the chances are that had my rifle even been in my hand, and I had fired and inflicted a deadly wound, being so very close, even the death bound of the animal would have been sufficient to kill me.

Obituary.

The death of Lamartine is an event of no common interest to the world at large, and particularly to France, although for many years prior to his decease, he vegetated rather than lived, seeming to have outlived his time and his usefulness. This illustrious poet, historian, and political orator, was born at Macon, Oct. 21, 1791. His family name was Prat, but he early adopted the name of his maternal uncle, Lamartine, who left him a considerable fortune, in return for which the poet made the name a household word in every land. His full name was Alphonse Maree Louis Prat de Lamartine. His father, a Captain in the Light Horse, refusing to join hands with the Terrorists, left Paris about the year 1794, with his wife and children, was arrested at Macon and thrown into a dungeon, where he remained till the 9th Thermidor—but a few months—when there was another change in revolutionary France. At the age of twelve, Lamartine was removed to an institution under the charge of the Jesuits at Bellay, on the frontier of Savoy. For four years he remained there, and then graduated with high honours. On returning to Milly some months were idled away, his parents being undecided as to his future career. At length a love affair compelled him to leave the chateau and make a tour through Italy under the guardianship of a relation, who was soon deserted by Alphonse for the more congenial society of the young. His life in Italy was full of love adventures, one of the latter of which resulted in the death of Graziella, the beautiful daughter of a Neapolitan fisherman who fell desperately in love with Lamartine, and is said to have died from mere distress when he left her. It is due to his memory to state that he ever denied having encouraged her passion. For several years he led a wild, purposeless life. He was enrolled as one of the body guard of Louis XVIII., and upon the flight of that monarch to Ghent, left France and revisited Italy.

Lamartine recrossed the Alps, and near the place where the broken-hearted Graziella first knew and loved him composed the greater part of the first volume of his "Poetic Meditations." For two years he vainly sought a publisher for this his first important work. Finally, Nicolle consented as a favour to print the young author's manuscript. He made a fortune by it. In less than two years 45,000 copies of the first series of the "Meditations" were sold. Some time after its appearance, being in Florence, he met an English blonde of great beauty named Miss Birch, and two months later made her his wife. In 1823, a second series of the "Meditations" appeared. For some time he served in the diplomatic corps of France, being successively secretary of the French legation at London and ambassador to Naples. Unfortunately he lost his daughter, who died at Beyroot, which sad event hastened his return to France, where, during his absence, he had been elected to a seat in the Chamber of Deputies. In this new sphere he very soon distinguished himself, taking a prominent part in the debates in that body, his speeches being all characterized by the spirit they breathed of a love of liberty, justice, and tolerance, as well as by the eloquence that marked their style and delivery. About the year 1837 Lamartine began in the Chambers to form a party, which was for several years known as the Social party. His influence in the Legislature being considerable, he was, in 1844, offered a portfolio by Louis Philippe but this he declined, became identified with the movements which led eventually to the overthrow of the Citizen King, a result to which his famous work the history of the Girondins is believed to have contributed. The part played by Lamartine during the stormy period that succeeded the flight of Louis Philippe, furnishes one of the most striking pages in the exciting history of France. Never, perhaps, has eloquence so successfully vindicated the power attributed to it, as it did in the case of Lamartine during the Paris troubles of 1848, when he not only swayed the senate by his oratory, but held under control the fiery spirits of the mob. He became a member of the Provisional Government that was formed after the downfall of the monarchy, being appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs; and such was the popularity he enjoyed that of the general elections for a Constituent Assembly, he was returned by no fewer than ten departments. Through all the trying scenes, however, of those days he remained steadfast in his defence of the cause of law and order, stoutly resisting those excesses to which the people in their temporary madness were only too much inclined to run. One result of this was that Lamartine soon lost his popularity, and the supreme power passed out of his hands into those of Cavaignac. A republic having been proclaimed, he was nominated for the Presidency, but received only a few votes. He returned to the benches of the Assembly, and in the general elections of 1849 he was elected by only one department in which he was an entire stranger, thus finding an obscure place in the last Republican Assembly of the Revolution of 1848. The *coup d'état* of the 2d of December, 1851, terminated the political career of Lamartine, who, from that time, lived a retired life, devoting himself to the labours of the pen, in vain efforts to retrieve his fortunes, which a course of extravagance had considerably reduced. Beside the works above-mentioned, Lamartine wrote the beautiful poem of Jocelyn; a History of the Revolution of 1848; a poem on Toussaint Louverture; a History of the Restoration; a History of Turkey, and a History of Russia. Of late years he was brought before the public several times through his pecuniary embarrassments, and his appeals for aid from the government.

The death took place in England on the 2nd inst., of the famous military veteran, Lord Gough, in the 81st year of his age. Lord Gough was a native of Ireland, and his fame is purely that of the brave and successful soldier, his whole life having been spent in the army, which he entered while yet a boy. After serving at the capture of the Cape of Good Hope, and subsequently in the West Indies, he joined, in 1809, the legions of the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsula, and commanded the 87th Regiment at the battles of Talavera, Barossa, Vittoria, and Nivelle, winning golden opinions and more substantial rewards for his bravery and other soldierly qualities. He was twice wounded during the Peninsular war, the second time very severely in the head. His next field of active service was China, where he played a very important part in the series of military and naval operations through which England compelled the Chinese Government to open the ports of the Empire to the introduction of East India opium into China, bringing the war to a speedy close by a succession of brilliant movements which placed Nankin at the mercy of the English. For his services on this occasion, he received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, was promoted to the rank of lieut.-general, and was honoured with a baronetcy. But the field in which he won his greatest distinction as a soldier was British India. In 1843 he defeated a Mahratta force at Maharajpore, capturing 56 guns; and during the troublous period, extending from 1845 to 1849, he proved himself a master in the art of war, defeating the enemy in several very bloody battles, and completing the conquest of the Punjaub by the overthrow of the Sikh army at the battle of Goorgerat. For the second time he received the thanks of Parliament, the acknowledgment being accompanied by his elevation to the peerage, under the title of Baron Gough. This was in 1846, and in 1849 he was created Viscount. The rank of Field Marshal was conferred upon him in 1862, on the occasion of the Prince of Wales attaining his majority. He also enjoyed a pension of £3,000 a year, settled on him by the old East India Company.

We have to announce the death of the Marquis of Anglesey, whose sudden decease took place at Beaudesert, Staffordshire. The late Right Hon. Henry Paget, Marquis of Anglesey, Earl of Uxbridge, county Middlesex, and Baron Paget, of Beaudesert, county Stafford, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, and a Baronet in Ireland (date 1730), Lord-Lieutenant and custos rotulorum county Anglesey, was the eldest son of Field-Marshal Henry William, first Marquis, K.G. and G.C.B. (the distinguished cavalry officer who served under the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo), by his first marriage with Lady Caroline Elizabeth Villiers, third daughter of George, Earl of Jersey, and was brother of the Duchess (Dowager) of Richmond, the Marchioness Conyngham, Lady Crofton, and Dowager Lady Templemore. He was born July 6, 1797, and married, first, August 5, 1819 (in Scotland), and afterwards in London, February 8, 1820, Eleanora, second daughter of Colonel John and Lady Charlotte Campbell, which lady died July 3, 1828; secondly, he married, August 27, 1833, Henrietta Maria, fourth daughter of the late Right Hon. Sir Charles Bagot, G.C.B., and Lady Harriet Bagot, which lady died in March, 1844; after which he married, thirdly, in 1860, the daughter of Mr. G. Barnard, who had been previously divorced from her first husband, Mr. Bell. The late Marquis was summoned to the House of Peers in his father's barony of Paget in 1832, up to which year, from 1820, he had represented Anglesey in the House of Commons. In 1839 he was appointed Lord Chamberlain of the Queen's Household, when he was made a Privy Councillor, which official position he held till 1841. He succeeded his venerable and gallant father Field-Marshal the Marquis of Anglesey on his death in 1854, in June of which year he was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Anglesey. His Lordship had been in the army and obtained his rank as Colonel in 1808. The Pagets were first ennobled by their great ancestor Lord Paget, a distinguished politician of the reign of Henry VIII., Edward VI. and Mary. The father of the late Marquis gained his title by his eminent military talents and success as a cavalry officer. The uncles of the late Peer—namely, General Sir Edward Paget, G.C.B., Governor of Chelsea Hospital; the Right Hon. Arthur Paget, G.C.B., and Admiral Sir Charles Paget, G.C.H., greatly distinguished themselves in their respective public services, and obtained their high distinctions by sheer personal merit. The late Marquis is succeeded in the marquisate and other honours by his only son by the first marriage, Henry William George, Earl of Uxbridge, born 9th December, 1821, and married 7th June, 1845, to Sophia, second daughter of the late Mr. James Evershed, of Denne Park, Sussex. He was formerly a Lieutenant in the 1st Life Guards, but retired in 1845; was a member of Parliament for South Staffordshire from 1834 to 1857; was appointed Deputy-Lieutenant for Staffordshire in 1851, and was Lieutenant-Colonel of the Staffordshire militia from 1852 to 1855. The late Marquis, by his first marriage, was father of the Countess of Winchilsea, and had an only daughter by the second marriage, Lady Florence, widow of the recently deceased Marquis of Hastings.

Army.

A glance at the Army Estimates of 1868-69, shows that of the total sum of fifteen millions voted for the services, only five millions are required for the payment and allowances of all regular troops in England and the colonies (Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, and Infantry), the remainder being swallowed up by innumerable departments with which red tape and the powers of the Circumlocution Office have for so long endeavoured to crush the army. It has been the custom for many years to try and save small sums of money by reductions in the numbers of effective officers and men, and this miserably patching system has utterly failed; but, alas! reached that stage that there seems no chance of efficiency being gained or common justice done without a most thorough reorganisation of every branch of the service. Who will attempt this great work? If the Minister of War will not, the public through Parliament must.——

The following Peers are on half-pay as Captains, Lieutenants, and Second Lieutenants: Captains—The Duke of Richmond, K.G.; the Earl of Kenmare; Viscount Arbuthnot; Lord Hylton. Lieutenant: Lord Kesteven. Second Lieutenant: Lord Teynham.——A Krupp gun has burst, and great is the triumph of the anti-Kruppites. The gun which burst was an 8 inch one, not actually in competition, but it had been used as a sort of feeler to a larger gun. The weight of the charges had not been great—16lb. as against the 30lb. charge of an English 8-inch—and consequently the explosion is very significant. It discredits very strongly the system of steel gun building. The Prussian Committee who tried an English gun at the same time are said to have reported that that gun produced the best penetrative effect. The Austrians are said to have already resolved to use coiled wrought iron for their heavy ordnance instead of steel.——The reductions in the British colonial garrisons will cause the return home shortly of the following battalions: 99th Regiment, from the Cape; 1st battalion 23rd, from New Brunswick; 4th battalion 60th Rifles, from New Brunswick; 30th Regiment, from Nova Scotia: 1st battalion Rifle Brigade, from Canada; and the 1st battalion 16th, from Nova Scotia. Our infantry force in North America will then consist of the following: 29th, 53rd, 1st battalion 60th Rifles, 69th, and 78th Highlanders.——In consequence of the reduction of the 4th West India Regiment, the next infantry colonelcy to become vacant will be filled by the transfer thereto of General Colomb, now colonel of the 4th West India Regiment.——Says the *Army and Navy Gazette*: If what we hear of the coming reductions in the Staff be correct, but few appointments will be vacant during this year and the next. The principal cutting down will be in Canada. It is presumed that, if an appointment becomes vacant, it will be given to an officer of suitable rank, whose place has been reduced for the sake of economy, before the expiration of his five years' tenure.

Navy.

The Lords of the Admiralty have decided that the sum of money devoted to experiments shall be reduced this year from £12,000 to £2,000. This is a sensible reduction from the £30,000, which sum was annually taken during the infancy of armour-plates.——Nelson's ship, the *Victory*, three score and ten years old, if she be a day! and a comely sea queen yet, even in her age—the grandest and most glorious vessel that ever was launched, is now doomed to pass away from sight. An order has been received at Portsmouth, directing that the *Victory*, heretofore the flagship of the Commander-in-Chief of the port, is to be virtually scratched off the books of the navy, and taken into the "Ordinary." Thus, then, Nelson's ship, the *Victory*, of Trafalgar, has finally "done her duty." The brave hulk is past all service, and she must "take her discharge."—A later report states that the *Victory* will still be retained as a receiving ship, and kept open to the public as usual.——Mr. W. A. Neill writes to an English journal:—"Commander Pocock, R.N., speaks of the Wellesley as 'the first ship illuminated with gas,' and most persons look upon gas on board her Majesty's ship Monarch as a novelty. Allow me to say that more than forty years ago there was, at all events, one ship lighted with gas. The vessel in question was the steamer Duke of York, belonging to the General Steam Navigation Company, but at the time to which I allude was chartered by Government, and employed in carrying mails and passengers between London and Portugal, Spain and the Mediterranean. Of this steamer my late father was for some time surgeon, and I have frequently heard him describe the way in which the gas was carried and applied. It was not made on board, as in the case of the Monarch, but kept in iron bottles, one of which was screwed on to the 'main,' and when the gas contained in it was consumed, a fresh bottle was substituted. The Duke of York was afterwards purchased into the Royal Navy, re-named the Messenger, and is, or very lately was, a coal depôt of Woolwich."

THE ALBION.

KINAHAN CORNWALLIS, Editor and Proprietor.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1869.

Summary of Foreign News.

The intelligence from Cuba continues to reach us in disjointed and unsatisfactory fragments. Various engagements are reported in different parts of the Island, but apparently of trifling importance and indecisive in their results. It is said the Spanish Government is much incensed at the conduct of the Cubans in refusing to accept its conciliatory proposals, and that it is now determined to crush the rebellion at any cost. The Spaniards on the Island are calling loudly for more reinforcements from the Mother Country, asserting that those now there are only able to hold their own. Meantime the people of the interior are suffering greatly, thousands being compelled to leave their homes and take refuge in the cities. The emigration of Cubans from the Island continues unabated.

From Spain we learn that during the session of the Cortes on the 26th ult., the Prime Minister, Marshal Serrano, said that notwithstanding the retirement of the Provisional Government, the members who composed it would still retain their seats in the Cortes. He stated further that the policy of the Government would be to follow the programme which the revolution had established. Every effort would be made to disarm the attacks of the Republicans by reducing expenditures in all quarters and pursuing a liberal policy generally. He regretted that the liberal reforms which had been contemplated for Cuba, had been necessarily delayed by reason of the insurrection there. It was rumoured in Madrid that the modifications to be made by Marshal Serrano in the Provisional Government, would provide for the introduction into the new Cabinet of a representative of the Radical element. An insurrection had broken out at Barcelona, but it was quickly suppressed, and the city was, at the latest accounts, tranquil. Forty persons, implicated in the conspiracy, had been arrested. Seven leaders of the Carlist movement had been arrested in Arragon. A quantity of arms and ammunition which had been concealed by them was discovered and seized, and important papers and correspondence also fell into the hands of the government. The Cortes had nominated a Commission, composed of fifteen members, to prepare the draft of a Constitution, define the rights and liberties of citizens and submit a form of government. The Minister of the Interior, Senor Sagosta, had made a statement to the Cortes respecting the disorders at Barcelona, the responsibility for which he charged upon the Republicans.

From England we learn that in the House of Commons, on the 1st inst., Mr. Gladstone moved for leave to introduce a bill to disestablish the Irish Church, to make provision for its temporalities and to disendow the Royal College of St. Patrick at Maynooth. Mr. Gladstone followed up his motion with a speech in defense and explanation of the provisions of the bill. With reference to the latter, he said that the bill was intended to go into effect on and after the first day of January, 1871. As soon as it had received the royal assent a commission would be appointed for a period of ten years to guard the property of the Church, and to prevent the creation of any new interests. All ecclesiastical appointments for Ireland hereafter would be made without freehold. No money would be employed for permanent purposes. These provisions were to take the place of the suspensory measures passed last year. It was assumed that the clergy and people might desire to have other religious organizations for those which they were about to give up. In such case the Queen in Council would recognize the newly constituted religious bodies, but would not create them. The result would be the abolition of ecclesiastical courts and jurisdiction and of the rights of bishops to the peerage; all ecclesiastical corporations would be dissolved, and then the disestablishment of the Irish Church would be complete. Provision was made for the clergy, who would receive life annuities. All private endowments would remain intact. The Church would be handed over to a council for religious purposes. Grants were proposed for St. Patrick's and eleven other cathedrals, these structures being regarded as national property. Church buildings no longer required were to be handed over to the Board of Works for the benefit of a fund, and burial grounds would be placed under charge of the Guardians of the Poor. The Presbyterian clergy would receive annuities in lieu of the *regium donum*, and the Roman Catholic college at Maynooth and the Presbyterian college would be granted capitalized sums of money. Further legislation would be had in regard to Trinity College. A tithe rent charge would be offered to land owners at twenty-two and a half years' purchase. Church leases would be sold, tenants having the first option. The capitalized value of the Church property was estimated at £16,500 000, of which £8,000,000 would be appropriated to compensation, and the remainder, in the words of the preamble to the bill, "is to be employed for the advantage of the Irish people; not for the purposes of any church or class, nor for the teaching of religion, but for relief in cases of unavoidable calamity, or suffering, while at the same time it is not to cancel the obligations laid upon property for the relief of the poor." Grants would also be made to provide for the care of lunatics, for the training of nurses and for the support of county infirmaries. Mr. Gladstone proceeded at considerable length to urge upon the House the great results which were to be expected from the passage of this measure in the tranquillity of Ireland and the greater union, security and power of the empire. Mr. Disraeli followed Mr. Gladstone, and spoke briefly. He said he regarded the policy of the administration in regard to the Irish Church as politically wrong and their bill as an act of confiscation. But the Government had a right to bring the matter before the House for a full and thorough discussion, and he would not oppose the introduction of the bill. The motion made by Mr. Gladstone was then agreed to. The bill was introduced and read for the first time. The 18th of March was appointed for the second reading. The House then adjourned. The Marquis of Hartington, Postmaster General, had been elected to the House of Commons from Radnor. The Cobden Club gold medal had been awarded to Dr. Joshua Leavitt of New York. In the case of Saurin *vs.* Starr, during the trial of which exposures were made of convent life in England, a verdict had been rendered for the plaintiff, who was awarded damages to the amount of £300. Mr. G. J. Goschen, President of the Poor Law Board, had advocated, in the House of Commons, the removal of restrictions from emigration, and thought it advisable even to give facilities for and otherwise encourage the deportation of paupers to America.

In the French *Corps Legislatif*, on the 26th ult., M. Rouher, the Minister of State, after defending the conduct of M. Haussman, Prefect of the Seine, introduced a bill to authorize direct loans for the improvement of Paris. Subsequently, in a speech, M. Rouher referred to the inconvenience of the Government having control of certain financial societies, and intimated that the Government would probably introduce a bill to abolish such control. M. Raymond Theodore Troplong, President of the French Senate, died on the 28th ult., aged 63.

From Berlin we learn that the Prussian Diet had passed, by a large majority, a bill to grant 2,000,000 florins to the municipality of Frankfort, to which the king had added a million from his private purse, in the hope that such action would draw closer to the monarchy and crown the hearts of the inhabitants of that city. A document had appeared, signed by ex-King George, of Hanover, protesting against the confiscation of his private property to the Prussian government. The sessions of the North German Parliament commenced at Berlin on the 4th inst. King William, as usual, opened the proceedings with a speech. He said that the first duty of the North German Confederation was to maintain peace and friendly relations with the other Powers of the earth. The result of the Conference recently held at Paris, on the Eastern question, demonstrated that there was a general desire for peace.

The Greek government has officially announced the re-establishment of friendly relations with Turkey. The Sublime Porte has issued a circular to the Great Powers of Europe, thanking them for the attitude taken in the late difficulties with Greece.

Information has been received at Bombay, from Central Asia, to the effect that the son of the dethroned Ameer of Cabool has gained possession of two cities in Turkistan near the Cabool border, and that Rahman Khan has gone to join him. It was also reported that the garrison of Kohat, a town in Cabool, twenty-five miles from Peshaur, had been captured by the natives, and that the British sustained a slight loss.

President Grant's Inaugural.

We print elsewhere the Inaugural Address of President Grant. Brief and comprehensive, it goes directly to the point, and gives forth no uncertain sound regarding the policy of his administration. In its soldier-like abruptness and plain-speaking, the Inaugural reflects the new Executive as he is known to the people, every line betraying the idiosyncracies of its author. Not the least remarkable feature of this State paper is its omissions. But little is said regarding the staple political topics that have recently monopolized so large a share of similar documents; the glorification of party is altogether omitted, and the foreign relations of the country are only referred to in the most general way. These omissions, however, are mainly improvements. Gen. Grant in his new position evidently does not mean to be hampered by the party that elected him, although paying due regard to the principles that composed its platform. In his Inaugural he very properly ignores dead issues, and devotes himself exclusively to the discussion of those that are of present and paramount importance. In this connection it is significant to note that at least half the brief Address is occupied with observations on the financial condition of the country. The payment of the debt in coin, and an early return to specie payments, are evidently considered by the Executive the vital questions of the hour, and his remarks thereupon are characterized by good judgment and an adherence to the principles maintained by the best financial writers. The simple enunciation of such principles cannot but have the happiest effect upon the market for the national securities abroad, and will do much to dispel the doubts and uncertainty to which the injudicious utterances of certain journals and politicians, in the late campaign, gave rise. With respect to the relations of this with other countries, the principles laid down cannot be gainsayed. Respect for the rights of all nations, the demanding equal consideration in return, and the protection of the law-abiding American citizen wherever "the flag of our country floats," are certainly axioms of foreign policy which none will attempt to dispute. The further references to reconstruction, the franchise, the collection of the revenue, and the Indians, will, we think, meet the approval of the great majority of the American people.

As a soldier President Grant has learned the necessity of discipline, and it is therefore not strange to find obedience to the laws the key-note of his first official communication with the people he has been called upon to govern. His statement of the general principle is worthy of being engraved in letters of gold. "Laws," he says, "are to govern all alike—those opposed to, as well as those in favour of them. I know no method to secure the repeal of bad, or obnoxious, laws, so effective as their stringent execution." In an era characterized by a general defiance of law, such a sentiment acquires a peculiar value and significance. The execution of the laws, whether he personally approves them or not, will be regarded as a sacred duty by the new Executive, and in this he will set an example to his fellow-countrymen which they would do well to follow.

Taken altogether, the Inaugural is a cheering and satisfactory indication of the general policy of the new administration, its course as to details being left to be guided by circumstances as they arise. Should the principles therein enunciated be carried out, the future of the Republic would be assured. Its financial affairs placed on a sound basis, the work of reconstruction prosecuted "calmly, without prejudice, hate, or sectional pride," and foreign nations dealt with as "equitable law requires individuals to deal with each other," and the United States would enter upon an era of prosperity unknown before. To secure this "happy consummation," the President very properly asks "patient forbearance, one towards another throughout the land, a determined effort on the part of every citizen to do his share towards cementing a happy Union," and "the prayers of the nation to Almighty God."

The Repeal Movement in Nova Scotia.

The Nova Scotia journals, friendly to Mr. Howe, inform their readers, that the contest in Hants county is progressing favourably for that gentleman. At a meeting recently held at Burlington, Messrs. Goudge, Troop and Jones confronted him, but failed, we are told, to convince their hearers that he was wrong and they were right. Dr. Tupper, of Halifax, is labouring to secure the election of Mr. Howe as a matter of policy, although hitherto opposed to him, and others similarly situated are likewise working in his behalf, with a view to the loaves and fishes they may obtain, in the event of his election, from the government at Ottawa. The Halifax *Unionist*, however, continues bitterly hostile to him, ostensibly in the interest of the Union, and remarks:—"The Unionists who will embrace Mr. Howe in the present contest are not one whit better than he is; they are equally culpable with him—accessories after the fact—and the time will come when they will bitterly repent that they ever, by word or deed, lent themselves to so base a sacrifice of principle, because Dr. Tupper, or somebody else, deemed it expedient that Mr. Howe should be supported by Union men. We write from a purely independent standpoint—we write as Unionists! We can have no sympathy with repealers—they can have none with us;—we are not playing into their hands—God forbid! But, Electors of Hants, we prefer Mr. Goudge with his record—to Joseph Howe with his checkered page, with many a foul blot on it—and we unhesitatingly declare that, we believe it to be our duty to prevent by all legitimate means—the return of Mr. Howe. Let him get his seat, 'get into power,' as he calls it, and who will dare to set bounds to his rapacity? If we support Mr. Howe, we thereby declare we have confidence in him. We cannot do that, because we have no confidence in him—we never had. We cannot, therefore, belong to his party. So long as Joseph Howe is abroad, the necessity will exist for a Union party, which will have a clearly defined policy—and that the Preservation of the Union."

At the last election in the county of Hants, when Mr. Howe ran at the head of the "party of punishment," he received 1530 votes, while Mr. King, his opponent, received only 956, the majority in favour of the former being, therefore, 574. The total number of votes in the County then amounted to 3070; whereas the total of votes actually polled was only 2486. Many Unionists remained at home out of personal regard to Mr. Howe, or because they disapproved of the way the Union had been effected. Such is the excitement attending the present struggle, however, that a more than usually full vote will doubtless be polled. The probable result is being actively canvassed, and opinions differ widely with regard to it, if we may judge by the representations of the Confederate and anti-Confederate party journals, the strong partizan spirit displayed by whom is to be deprecated. One of the former declares that "The election in Hants will be the life and death struggle of the Repeal party. If Mr. Howe succeeds in being re-elected, the party will have ceased to live. No gainsaying the assertion. It will be killed by its own leader; and the astonishing truth will come home to the minds of Nova Scotians that that one erratic politician battled with what was assumed to be the unanimous popular sentiment, and came victorious out of the struggle." The Repeal organs, however, deny that Mr. Howe's election will seriously interfere with the prospects of their party, and argue the case apparently very much to their own satisfaction. It is high time, however, that the agitators in favour of Repeal should awake to a knowledge of the fact that the interests of Nova Scotia will be best promoted by a firm adherence to the Union, and that all dissensions which distract the Province from this view of the case, are inimical to its prosperity. Let Nova Scotia make her voice heard in the councils of the Dominion, and endeavour to check that extravagance of which she complains, and otherwise contribute to the improvement of the Confederate Government, which, however defective it may be in its administration, is nevertheless based upon a

sound principle, and has a great future before it, stretching farther than the political eye can at present reach.

The Government and the Telegraph.

While American journalists are discussing the desirability of uniting the telegraphic and postal services under government control, it is interesting to note what has been done in England in relation to the same matter, and how far the circumstances of the two countries are similar. Near the close of the last session of Parliament, and under the Disraeli *regime*, an Act was passed placing the various telegraph lines in the kingdom under the administration of the Post Office department. This was not accomplished, however, without provoking many sharp debates, and encountering arguments of considerable force. It is now, however, a law, and although nothing has yet been done towards carrying it into effect, we shall doubtless soon have an opportunity of witnessing its practical operation. While many of the advocates of a similar law in this country will cite the action of the British Parliament as an argument in their favour, it should be remembered not only that the English Act is thus far simply an experiment that has never been tested, and which is liable to be repealed in case of failure, but that the conditions under which the telegraph exists in both countries are so dissimilar that a parallel between the two cases cannot justly be drawn. In the first place, the connecting of the telegraphic and the postal services of the United States would be to join a paying and successful to a losing and unsuccessful branch of the public service, while in England it is doing precisely the reverse. In Great Britain the post office pays, and pays well, simply as a speculation, while the telegraph is yet so undeveloped compared with this country, as to make it very doubtful whether the government could manage it without a loss. In the United States, on the other hand, the telegraph is a popular institution—popular both in moderateness of tariffs and as a means of rapid communication within reach of the masses. In Great Britain and throughout Europe generally, the telegraph still ranks as a luxury, and its ordinary use by the great body of the people is as yet unknown. Let us cite a few figures. In the United States the telegraph offices number upwards of 4,000, or one for every 7,000 of the population, and over 50,000 miles of line and 100,000 miles of wire are incessantly at work for the accommodation of the public. In the year 1867 one company alone delivered to the American Press about 300,000,000 words of news matter, at a cost of not far from $500,000, whereas in continental Europe a service of about the same extent cost no less than £2,800,000! But while the telegraph is thus successful here as a paying institution, the post office still fails to be self-supporting, not so much because of bad management, as from the fact that the service is necessarily expensive, and that it is conducted with great liberality, and most judicious consideration for the public business.

Thus it will be seen that the very arguments that in England might be effectively used in favour of a governmental assumption of the telegraphic service, would be quite as effective on this side the Atlantic in proving directly the reverse. In the former country the telegraph being costly is exclusively used by the middle and upper classes, and its union with so thoroughly well managed a service as the British Post Office, may prove of advantage in popularizing this wonderful agent. In the United States, on the contrary, every consideration of economy and effectiveness protests against any such union of the two services under government management. If telegraphing still costs more than it should do even here, combining all the lines in the country in one gigantic monopoly certainly does not seem the proper method to cheapen it. Besides, it is notorious that whatever is done here by government, is, as a rule, badly done, and the experience of the past proves conclusively that such a combination as that proposed would be taken advantage of by corrupt men, and be productive of many "jobs." Then, again, in a country where everything is made subordinate to political ends, is there not danger that the telegraph, so managed, instead of being a popular convenience would be transformed into a political machine devoted not to transacting the business of the public, but to securing the ascendancy of party? Even in England this argument was urged by many prominent statesmen, and if an objection there, it is ten times as great an objection here.

In short, taking all the circumstances of the case into consideration, there seems to be no valid reason why the government should assume the control of the telegraphic system in the United States. That system has thus far been perfected by private enterprise, and the results achieved are at once creditable to the business tact and public spirit of the several associations in whose hands the service now rests. We are enabled to take advantage of this wonderful invention in the most ordinary transactions of life, and at a cost that astonishes managers of similar enterprises abroad. To take the service from hands by which it is now so well managed, would be not only to deprive private enterprise of its just reward, but to place it under control which would most probably be costly and ineffective. At all events American advocates of this measure can afford to wait until the experiment has been tried in England, and the results there brought to the solution of the question on this side of the Atlantic.

The Rise and Speculation in Real Estate.

An extended observation of both this country and Europe must reveal the fact that the price of land is generally and steadily advancing. Not only is this seen in the large cities, but in the more remote sections where prices are also rising—more slowly, it is true, but still rising. As far as the large towns are concerned, this increase in value is easily explained, but, for the cause of the advance in remote districts, we are compelled to look farther. One reason may be found in the growing cheapness of money. The discoveries of gold and silver that are being constantly made, the increasing productiveness of mines now worked, and the frequent rehabilitation of those long since abandoned, all tend to lower the standard of value, and as this is lowered the price of things permanently valuable—such as land—must rise in proportion. Indeed it is now doubted, by some of our best writers, whether gold and silver can, from their increasing abundance, much longer remain the standard of value. The apparently unlimited production of the mines in Australia, in California, on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains, and over extensive tracts of country elsewhere, gives this question an unusual significance, and may, at an early date, render its solution an absolute necessity. Meantime, as this abundance increases, the general advance must continue, proportionately accelerated as local causes intervene. Take, for example, the over-grown cities of New York, London and Paris. In the most desirable localities in these human hives, real estate has already risen to a fabulous value. Each succeeding sale is made at a constantly increasing rate, until land in the fashionable centres of Paris and the business centres of New York and London, is rapidly becoming, as the saying is, almost worth its weight in gold. Nor will this increase be greatly retarded, or affected, by the commercial panics which are nearly always being predicted, from the fact that as confidence is lost in ordinary business ventures, investments in real estate are sought as something tangible, that, if not always productive of the highest interest, at any rate secure the capital.

Looking at the whole subject, therefore, it does not seem that the recent rise in real estate in this city and vicinity is altogether without cause, or of the character of a bubble speculation which must eventually explode. We do not mean, of course, that unreasonably high prices are not sometimes asked and given, but that the general rise, leaving out of view exceptional cases, seems fully warranted. As compared with the prices obtained for land in corresponding localities in Paris and London, New York real estate is still cheap, and investments at even the high figures now ruling are likely to be paying ones. The American metropolis has a destiny that must in the end make her a formidable rival of the richest and most populous cities of the old world, if she does not pass them in the race, and it ought not to seem strange that property located within city limits, or in the immediate vicinity, should rise rapidly in value. That there will be much groundless speculation connected with this condition of things is inevitable, but as to the upward tendency itself there cannot be the shadow of a doubt.

The Queen and English Politics.

The absence of the Queen at the opening of Parliament last month, was felt to be chilling. It is certainly a pity that Her Majesty's health does not allow her to take her place on those grand State occasions, and to fulfil the duties which, in the early years of her reign, she was wont to discharge with so much grace. The protracted retirement of the Queen is felt all the more that her presence in former times threw a radiance over social life in London. Year after year the Queen's reappearance has been anxiously looked for. Year after year the disappointment has been repeated, and the repetition has made the disappointment the more bitter. But it ought always to be borne in mind that ill-health and broken spirits make public exhibitions irksome, and that the Queen has a perfect right to be the judge of her own conduct in such matters. Let us hope that better health and recruited spirits will soon enable Her Majesty to resume the place which she was wont so happily to fill, and the filling of which would be so agreeable to all classes of her subjects.

The Royal address had fewer merits than we had expected to find. In some respects, however, this is not wonderful. The times are peculiar and the situation is somewhat critical. The speech was general, more so even than is customary on such occasions. But this generalization showed the good sense of Mr. Gladstone, who had no right, through the mouth of the Queen, to challenge his opponents. The Queen had good right to boast of the relations of her country, for war at present has been made impossible by the action of the Paris Conference, and we are willing to believe that, in spite of all the noise which is made by a certain section of the Press, the questions still outstanding between Great Britain and the United States, will be settled in such a manner as shall conserve the peace of the two nations. The other parts of the speech were emphatically unimportant. We had all learned that the Irish Church would soon engage the attention of Parliament, and for the present all other English questions centre in this. By reference to our summary of foreign news, it will be seen that the struggle has been already begun by Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons, and the details of his scheme for disestablishment will be read with interest.

The Outlook in Spain.

Spain continues to absorb a large share of public attention, and, under the circumstances, this is not much to be wondered at. Spain is in a very peculiar, not to say critical, condition. Whether she is progressing, retrograding, or standing still, even the wise and specially informed seem at a loss to know. A few days ago, it was announced that the Provisional government was to be supplanted by a triumvirate. Later despatches informed us that the Provisional government had resigned, and that the Cortes had invested Marshal Serrano with powers which virtually make him dictator for the present. General Prim, addressing the Cortes, assured the House that the late dynasty should never reascend the throne. Such an assurance seems to us to imply that, whatever be the intention of Serrano, Prim, and the other leaders, the people generally, and even their representatives in the Constituent Assembly, are altogether in the dark as to who is to be the next occupant of the Spanish throne. Admiral Topete asked the House to pass an act of indemnity, and thus cover the acts of the navy during the revolution. An act of indemnity is equally necessary for the army, and it is strange that Prim should have neglected the opportunity of presenting a similar request. It is significant of good feeling between the House and the national leaders, that a vote of thanks should have been passed to the retiring Provisional government, the republican members alone opposing it. With the Cortes in session, and the government of the country reduced to something like constitutional shape, the presumption is that we shall soon know whether Montpensier, Aosta, or Don Ferdinand, will be king of Spain. It will not be much longer possible for the leaders to conceal their purpose. Any name that may be mentioned will be certain to provoke discussion in the Cortes; and as the sanction of the Cortes is necessary, it is quite within the limits of the possible that all this apparent order may disappear in storm and tempest, and that the latter state of Spain may be worse than the first. It is not a good sign that, while the country has with singular unanimity declared in favour of monarchy, no one, at this late hour, seems to know who is to be her king. Such a policy would have been fatal to England in 1688.

The Constitutional Amendment.

We have already noted that the Senate of the United States has receded from the extreme radical position it first took with regard to the Constitutional Amendment, regulating the Suffrage. A Committee of Conference was subsequently appointed, and the result of several consultations has been the adoption, by both Houses, of the following amendment: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote, shall not be denied, or abridged, by the United States, or by any State, on account of race, colour, or previous condition of servitude." This, it will be seen, is essentially the amendment originally passed by the House of Representatives. It omits all reference to the clause adopted by the Senate regarding the right to hold office, and simply declares that neither race, colour nor a previous condition of servitude shall be a bar to the exercise of the elective franchise.

This amendment seems based in justice, and will probably receive the consent of the necessary two-thirds of the State Legislatures. It will be seen that while not excluding any person on account of race or colour, it does not preclude the enactment of property, or educational, qualifications by the several States; indeed, if so minded, the adherents of any particular religious faith might be debarred from the right to vote. There is little danger, however, that so extreme a measure will be resorted to. As to the practical effect of the Amendment, if adopted, it is expected that it will settle once for all what is known as the "negro question," which, under different aspects, has formed so disturbing an element in American politics for the past thirty years. The negro, allowed to vote, and protected in his rights as a citizen, will take his natural place and work out the problem of civilization in common with his brethren of the Caucasian race. New issues will spring up, new political difficulties will present themselves for solution, and the "American of African descent," who has played so prominent a *rôle* on this side the Atlantic, will be let severely alone by that large class of demagogues who have sought to make party and personal capital out of his necessities, and whose real regard for the welfare of the coloured race may be expressed by a very negative quantity.

Financial, Commercial, and Statistical.

WALL STREET, FRIDAY EVENING, March 5, 1869.

Business in Wall Street has been without any strongly marked features during the past week, if we except a recurrence of monetary stringency owing partly to artificial, but mainly to natural causes, prominent among which is the enlarged demand for money for mercantile purposes throughout the country, in consequence of the opening of the Spring trade. At the same time the high prices now current on the Stock Exchange, especially for railway shares, necessitate the use of a correspondingly large amount of loanable funds for carrying them. The borrowing demand for money from the stock houses was very active, and seven per cent. per annum in gold was very generally paid, and in some instances a small commission besides, although strictly first class borrowers, as a rule, obtained all they required at the legal rate in currency. Commercial paper was negotiated with difficulty, and the best grade was quoted at 8 @ 10 per cent. discount per annum. The stock market presented an unsettled appearance, and the tendency of prices was downward under sales to realize, and a disposition to sell "short" on the part of an important section of the street. Although no material change has taken place in prices, the bull speculation in railway shares halts, and the bears are gradually becoming bolder in their operations, which they seek to promote by resorting to the old and discreditable trick of locking up greenbacks for the purpose of embarrassing the bulls. The outside public is very wisely not buying the speculative stocks, and the task of supporting them devolves upon the cliques which are heavily loaded and threatened with demoralization. Pacific Mail, after rallying to 104 at the end of last week, relapsed to 92½, and it has since fluctuated between this point and 102, at which figure it exhibits great firmness, owing to purchases by the bears to cover their

contracts, the "short" interest in the stock being very heavy, and hence it is liable to rally strongly at any time, the more particularly as it has declined over twenty per cent., while railway shares have remained nearly steady.

The market for United States stocks has been quiet, and the advance of last week has not been fully sustained, although since the passage of the bill pledging the faith of the government to the payment of the gold bearing bonds in coin, and the similarly reassuring inaugural address of General Grant, its tendency has been towards higher figures. The following is the text of the bill referred to, as amended by the Senate, and referred to a Committee of Conference following which it received the approval of the House of Representatives by a vote of 118 to 51, and that of the Senate by a vote of 31 to 24:—

"Be it enacted, etc., That in order to remove any doubt as to the purpo e of the Government to discharge all just obligations to the public creditors, and to settle conflicting questions and interpretations of the laws, by virtue of which such obligations have been contracted, it is hereby provided and declared that the faith of the United States is solemnly pledged to the payment in coin, or its equivalent, of all the obligations of the United States not bearing interest, known as United States notes, and of the interest-bearing obligations of the United States, except in case where the law authorizing the issue of any such obligation has expressly provided that the same may be paid in lawful money, or other currency than gold or silver; but none of said interest-bearing obligations not already due shall be paid or redeemed before maturity, unless at such time United States notes shall be convertible into coin at the option of the holder, or unless at such time bonds of the United States bearing a lower rate of interest than the bonds to be redeemed, can be sold at par in coin; and the United States also solemnly pledges its faith to make provision at the earliest practicable period for redemption of the United States notes in coin.

"Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That any contract hereafter made, especially payable in coin, and the consideration of which may be a loan of coin, or sale of property, or the rendering of labour, or service of any kind, the price of which as carried into the contract may have been adjusted on the basis of the coin value thereof, at the time of such sale, or the rendering of such service or labour, shall be legal and valid, and may be enforced according to its terms; and on trial of a suit brought for the enforcement of any such contract, proof of the real consideration may be given."

The fluctuations in gold have been light, namely from 130¾ to 131¾, and both the commercial and financial condition of the country are opposed to a further material decline at present, while the large amount of United States securities held abroad is always an element of danger, which as a matter of course is never lost sight of in the gold room. The rates of foreign exchange have been drooping under a considerable supply of bills drawn against shipments of Five-twenties, and prime bankers bills on England at sixty days are now quoted at 108¾.

The statement of the public debt of the United States for the month of February, bearing date March 1, shows a decrease of $10,868,754 less the amount in the Treasury, when compared with that dated at the beginning of the preceding month, but if we omit to count the cash in the treasury in either case, we find that the decrease was less than a million and a half of dollars. This decrease is caused by an increase of a little more than ten millions in coin in the Treasury, and by a reduction of more than $9,800,000 in the gold certificates of deposit in the hands of the public, so that the increase in the amount of coin actually owned by the Government is $13,893,000. From this, however, must now be deducted about five millions of interest, which fell due on the 1st of March, on the Ten-forty loan. There was issued during the month $1,920,000 of subsidy bonds to the Pacific railways, making a total thus far of $58,937,000. There was also issued $1,920,000 of fractional currency, making a total outstanding of $36,731,547. The other changes in the debt are trifling. Its aggregate, without deducting the cash in the Treasury, is now $2,660,931,694, against $2,648,207,079 at the same time last year, so that but for the issue of these subsidy bonds, there would have been a decrease of about twenty-four millions apparent in the total debt. The gold bearing debt has increased $181,608,089 during the year, while that bearing currency interest has decreased $220,110,280 by funding. The amount of United States notes in circulation is $356,021,016, which, with the three hundred millions of national bank notes and the fractional currency, gives the country a total circulation of nearly seven hundred millions. The amount of coin in the treasury on the 1st inst. was $98,741,260 of which seventy millions was the property of the government.

The prospects of the spring trade are improving, although there is no marked activity, or buoyancy, in any branch of business as yet. The influence of the new administration will be beneficial, so far as it tends to restore confidence in the future tranquillity of the country, but the hard money platform, endorsed by General Grant, is calculated to check undue inflation of values under merely speculative agencies.

The Bank of England return for the week ending on the 10th ult. is more favourable than was anticipated. The private securities exhibit a decrease of £484,769, the total being £16,511,757. The reserve of notes presents an increase of £310,595, the aggregate standing at £8,938,630. The decrease in bullion is £102,665, the amount in both departments being £18,408,540. The public deposits exhibit an increase of £157,820; the other deposits manifest a decrease of £343,808. The return for the week ending February 27, shows no important changes. There is an increase in the notes issued of £66,700; rest, £19 600; other deposits, £455,900; seven-day and other bills, £4,800; Government securities, £50,600, other securities, £121,509; reserve of notes, £245 400; and bullion and coin, £62,400. There is a decrease in the public deposits of £67,700; and active circulation, £178,800. The amount of notes in circulation is £23,183,915, and the stock of bullion in both Departments £18,470,030.

The stock of bullion in the Bank of France is now nearly the same as in February, 1868, having been £43,192,080 Feb. 4, 1869, as compared with £42,553,880 Feb. 5, 1868, showing an increase of only £638,180. The securities in the portfolio, Feb. 5, 1869, were £23,571,480, as compared with £19,155,560 Feb. 5, 1868, showing an increase of £4,415,920, and indicating a sensible revival in discount operations. The note circulation of the Bank was £25,055,200 Feb. 4, 1869, as compared with £18,096,520 Feb. 5, 1868, showing an increase of £6,958,680.

The specie shipments from the United Kingdom to the East, via Alexandria, amounted last year to £10,189,904, against only £3,659,154 in 1867, which was the smallest shipment known for many years past. The highest total ever attained was in 1864, when, in consequence of the cessation of the American cotton supply, it reached £22,218,189. For the last nine years the average has been £13,963,000. Of the increase of 6½ millions shown in 1868 over 1867, the excess to Alexandria was about 3½ millions—a circumstance attributable not only to the Egyptian cotton crop, but partly to the large loan advanced to that country.

Following his retirement from the chairmanship of the Oriental Bank Corporation, Mr. Harry Gordon, of the late firm of Overend, Gurney and Co, and one of the defendants in the suit now pending against them, has resigned as a director of the Union Bank of London.

The cotton manufacturers of Normandy have drawn up a petition entreating the emperor to give notice of the expiration of the Treaty with England, and to return to the tariffs which can alone restore their lost prosperity. They say they are ruined by the treaty. England finds a new market in France, while they are undersold. Never, they say, were so many stoppages known, and they point to the tariffs of the United States as the cause of its prosperity. These gentlemen do not see that if, as they say, free trade benefits England so much, it must also of necessity benefit them, or explain how it happens that the Treaty has so greatly increased the total trade of France, and specially the wine trade of the South. It is curious that just while they are complaining of being undersold by England, Manchester should be complaining of being undersold by France. The truth is, we believe, that in both countries there is more capital employed in the cotton manufacture than is needed. People won't buy calico at any price unless they want it, and if one and a half yards is produced where one yard is wanted, prices must fall below the level of profit.

A new Spanish loan is stated to be in course of negotiation at Madrid. The object is to raise a sum of £6,000,000 effective, to fill up the deficit which will otherwise embarrass the Treasury at the end of June.

The Austrian Government has announced that the conversion of the old securities of its debt will be steadily proceeded with. The precise period for the commencement and prosecution of the conversion has not yet been announced, but it is understood that the house of Rothschild, the Credit Foncier, and the Comptoir d'Escompte, will be charged with the operation as regards the stocks placed in France.

The French Crédit Mobilier seems to have turned the corner in connection with the troubles against which it has been so long struggling, and it is not surprising to find that its £20 shares have crept up to £13 each. The Mobiliar, it appears, will now recover something of the heavy advances which it has made to the Paris Compagnie Immobilière, as the latter expects to obtain a sum of £1,440,000 from its old directors, and promises to devote £640,000 of this sum to the process of squaring accounts with the Mobilier.

The French Government announces that on the 12th April it will receive offers for the supply of 2,000 tons of Virginia tobacco: 6,500 tons of Kentucky; 3,800 of Maryland.

There is much exaggeration in the reported misunderstanding between the Republics of Honduras and Salvador. The works on the first section of the Honduras Interoceanic Railway, from Puerto Caballos to Santiago, are in progress, under the supervision of Mr. Henry O'Hagan, engineer, and Mr. Ransom, assistant engineer, and the *Betsy Morris* sailed last month from Cardiff with a large cargo of rails and railway material shipped by the contractors of the line.

The financial history of India seems likely to assume henceforth a brighter character than it has possessed in the past. The *Friend* shows that the revenue has nearly doubled itself, in fourteen years, and yet the taxes are light, and the Finance Ministers have not performed any great achievements. In fact, our contemporary will give none of the officials any great credit. "God has been our financier," it says.

The number of emigrants who left the ports of the United Kingdom at which Government agents are stationed in the year 1868, was 192,344; from other ports, 3,977. Of these 196,321 emigrants, 58,268 were English, 14,954 Scotch, 64,961 Irish, and 51,958 foreigners, the origin of 6,182 not being distinguished. In 1867 the total number of emigrants was 195,953, including 88,622 Irish. In 1868, 155,532 sailed to the United States, of whom 57,662 were Irish; 21,058 to the North American colonies, 12,800 to the Australian colonies, and 6,923 to all other places. More than half of the emigrants in 1868 are comprised under the following heads of occupation or condition—General and agricultural labourers, 50,515; children under 12 years of age, 38,416, of whom 8,096 were infants under one year of age; married women, 23,597; female domestic servants, 8,592; farmers, 7,258; miners and quarrymen, 8,500; gentlemen, professional men, and merchants, 7,171; carpenters, 2,533; tailors, 951; clerks, 790; smiths, 712; spinners and weavers, 381; seamen, 278; and coal miners, 280. Out of the total number of emigrants, 44,309 were married—viz., 20,712 males, and 23,597 females; 107,468 were single adults, of whom 74,053 were males, and 33,415 females. The returns show that the emigration of 1868 was smaller than in any of the four years 1863-66, but exceeded that of 1867 by about 360. Glancing at the nationality of the different classes, it is seen that there was an increase in the emigrants of 1868, as compared with those of 1867, of 2,774 English, 2,088 Scotch, and 20,763 foreigners, while among Irish emigrants there was a large decrease of 23,661.

The Government of Buenos Ayres has published a return of the trade and navigation of that country during the year ending September 12 1868. The entries amounted to 355,800 tons, of which 91,987 tons were under the English flag. The States which come next in order of importance are—France, 62,073 tons; Italy, 49,900 tons; United States, 43,300 tons; and Spain, 39,800 tons. Of the French ports, Bordeaux and Bayonne figure for 25,737, Havre for 17,904, and Marseilles for 5,697. The clearings formed a total of 340,194 tons, of which, from want of return freights, 190,576 were in ballast. The proportion of English shipping was 86,000 tons, of which 38,000 were with cargoes; and of French vessels 60,800 or 49,000 with cargoes. In that respect the French shipowners were more highly favoured than the English. The chief imports into France from Buenos Ayres are consigned to Havre; the principal markets for leather are in the United States and at Antwerp. That Belgian port received also the largest quantity of wool, the imports under that head amounting to 103,000 bales, or double the quantity sent to all France. The exports from Buenos Ayres, compared with the preceding year, show a considerable falling off. There is a decrease of 201,000 hides, 26,800 pipes and 22,500 casks of tallow, and 28,800 bales of wool. The Paraguayan war is the chief cause of this unfavourable position. The restoration of peace would, no doubt, produce a revivial of affairs very necessary to the country, which requires a considerable export trade to balance the purchases she is making abroad.

STEAM COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE SOUTH AND EUROPE.

From one of our exchanges we glean the following facts respecting lines of steamers running between Southern ports and Europe:—

Galveston, Texas, has several steamers running to Liverpool. One of the lines is composed of some of the fine fleet that have hitherto run in the New York and Liverpool Dale Line, the City of Dublin being one of them. From New Orleans quite a fleet of the finest class of vessels run to Europe. The "Liverpool Southern Steamship Company" is the name of one of these lines, which advertises eight steamers, ranging from 1,.00 to 1,400 tons, for Liverpool direct. Then, there is another to Hamburg, another to Bremen, and another again to Liverpool—all of these latter touching at Havana out and home. The Hamburg and Bremen line is composed of steamers belonging respectively to the Hamburg-American Packet Company" and the "North German Lloyd" line, of New York, and previously sailing from here. The steamer Alice, of the Liverpool Southern Steamship Company, lately brought on a cargo of hardware, and other manufactured goods from Europe. There is also a line composed of one or more steamers between London and New Orleans, making five direct lines to Europe, besides occasional arrivals from Cardiff arriving at New Orleans lately with a cargo of railroad iron.

Mobile has a line to Liverpool only. At Savannah there is the "Georgia and Liverpool Line" composed of seven steamers, sailing from Savannah on the 1st and 15th of every month, and advertising to dispatch extra steamers to other European ports when sufficient inducement is offered. Savannah has also the "Macgregor Line" to Liverpool. Transient European steamers also reach Savannah occasionally. Charleston has a regularly organized line, called the "Charleston and Liverpool Steamship Line." The Golden Horn, a new vessel, belonging to this line, arrived at Charleston lately with quite a large cargo of merchandise, mostly hardware. The steamer Statira was also loading at Charleston lately for Liverpool—probably a transient vessel. The Norfolk and Liverpool Line, composed of some half-dozen steamers, has been temporarily abandoned, there having been no departures lately. Baltimore has two European lines—one to Liverpool, composed of three steamers, and another to Bremen, employing two more. Thus nearly every Southern port of importance can boast of direct steam communication with Europe at present.

Music.

It is a long time since the Academy of Music was filled as it was on Monday evening on the occasion of the *rentree* of Miss Kellogg. For the time being it seemed as if the fashionable world must have abstained from every other species of entertainment, and rallied with one accord to greet an artiste whom the musical public delights to honour. Miss Kellogg was naturally incited to do her best by so generous a patronage, and the result was most satisfactory. The opera was the familiar "Faust," and the cast was as follows: *Marguerite*, Miss Kellogg; *Siebel*, Mme. Cellini; *Faust*, Herr Habelmann; *Valentin*, Signor Orlandini; *Mephistopheles*, Signor Anotonucci. Miss Kellogg's *Marguerite* is well known. It is the part which has more than any other contributed to her present reputation, and in which she took the English public by storm during her recent trans-Atlantic sojourn. Her conception of the character is original, and very beautiful in itself, whatever may be said of its proximity to the original standard. Her first entrance, where she passes slowly across the scene, with downcast eyes, missal and beads in hand, is one of the most charming pictures the lyric drama has given us. The personation reaches the highest point of excellence in the famed jewel song, where the simple coquettery of the village maiden enthralls all beholders. For so excellent a performance, it seemed to us that the audience was remarkably cold. Had Miss Kellogg been a *debutante*, or the opera itself a novelty, the enthusiasm, naturally excited, would have known no bounds. As it was, *Marguerite* was honoured by a recall or two, and a basket of flowers. So meritorious a personation deserved more pronounced recognition. The other parts were fairly given. Herr Habelmann sang for the first time in Italian, and the fact was announced in the bills with a grandiloquent flourish, as though it were especially meritorious to sing Italian opera in Italian. He was in good voice, however, and did not seem embarrassed by the unfamiliar language. Signor Orlandini made a very acceptable *Valentin*, dying with the proper amount of protestations. As *Mephistopheles*, Signor Antonucci was musically perfect, but dramatically far below the standard. His make-up was also objectionable. His noble voice and excellent method, however, made us forget all histrionic shortcomings. As *Siebel*, Mme. Cellini was equal to the demands of the part. The opera was repeated, with the same cast on Wednesday, and on Friday there was a *reprise* of the "African." To-day there will be a "Faust" matinee. On the 26th ult, the "Favorita" was given, with Mme. La Grange as *Leonora*, and Signor Brignoli as *Fernando*. The duo in the second act by these artists, the finale of the third, and the "cross" duo and "Spirito Gentil" of the fourth, were excellently given, and received with great applause. A *debutante*—Miss Jenny Kimball—appeared in the *role* of *Inez*. The lady has a pleasing, but not powerful soprano voice, which practice will doubtless do much to strengthen.

The performances at the French theatre have been somewhat broken during the week, owing to the occupation of the house for an artists' ball, on Wednesday and Thursday. On the latter evening the company made a flying excursion to Hartford. On last evening the favourite tenor, M. Carrier, was announced to take a benefit. The programme consisted of the first act of "L'Œil Crevé," the Gendarmes' act from "Genvieve," the third act of "Fleur de Thé," and Offenbach's "Monsieur Chonflleury." To-day the latter work and "Fleur de Thé," will be given at the matinee and evening performances. The old Bateman Troupe, with Irma and Aujac, under the management of Mr. Fiske, are at present in Boston, suffering from the lash of the virtuous critics of that "high-toned" city, and playing to decidedly unremunerative houses. At Philadelphia, however, *opera bouffe* is more popular, the subscription for a season of only a single week, exceeding $14,000. The Fourth Concert of the Philharmonic Society will take place at the Academy of Music this evening. Mme. La Grange, and the Liederkranz and Arion Societies will assist. We have received from Messrs. C. H. Ditson

and Co., *The Wreath of Gems*, a Collect io Songs, Ballads and Duets, with piano forte accompaniment. This is one of the best collections that has recently fallen in our way, the selections being marked by good taste, and a due regard to the popular predelictions. While the latter are sufficiently catered to, the volume also contains some of the best songs by such writers as Franz and Abt. In short, the *Wreath* is a marval of cheapness, and contains precisely the *morceau* every lady who sings is ambitious to include in her *reepteire*. The same house also send us "The Alps, March de Bravura," by Addison P. Wyman, and "Golden Rain, Nocturne," by "Cloy"—both simple and pleasing, but not otherwise remarkable.

Drama.

At Wood's Museum "The Ticket-of-Leave Man" was produced on Monday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Florence in their well-remembered parts. Miss Ada Harland, late of the Lydia Thompson Burlesque Troupe, appeared as *May Edwards*; Miss Mary Wells as *Mrs. Willoughby*; Miss Lillie Eldridge as *Sam*; Mr. Sol Smith as *Melter Moss*; Mr. Mestayer as the Detective; Mr. A. Fitzgerald as *James Dalton*; Mr. F. G. Maeder as *Green Jones*, and Mr. Mitchell as *Mr. Gibson*. The personations of the Florences are too well known to call for special mention. Miss Harland gave a very quiet but pleasing personation as *May Edwards*, and proved her ability to act in melodrama as well as in burlesque. The other parts were fairly filled, although Mr. Smith did not elaborate the character of *Melter Moss* to the degree to which we have been accustomed. Mmes. Wells and Eldridge were both good as mother and son, the former portraying the garrulous lodging-house keeper with much unction. "The Ticket-of-Leave Man" is one of the best plays of its kind that now keep the stage, and is very tolerably acted by the company at the Museum. At the matinée performances "Ixion" is given, and the Morlacchi Ballet Troupe appear. At Brougham's Theatre the week has been signalized by the *debut* of the Miss Jenny Kimball, who appeared at the Academy in the "Favorita," on Friday evening of last week. Miss Kimball comes from the New England towns, where she has appeared in burlesque and *opera bouffe*, and is, therefore, not new to the stage. By a droll misapprehension of the character, she appeared in the part of *Jenny Leatherlungs*, in the burlesque of "Jenny Lind," in the undress now popular among the blonde beauties who have invaded us from the London stage. Thus dis. guised she sang a song about "Tassels on the Boots," then retired and reappeared again in trailing robes. Her voice we have commented upon elsewhere. As to dramatic power, Miss Kimball evinced no especial talent for the proper acting of the part she assumed. Her reception, probably for the reasons named, was not enthusiastic. The New York Theatre is closed, the Buchanan combination, after displaying a heroism worthy of a better cause, having retired to their ordinary provincial camping-grounds to reflect upon the ingratitude of the metropolitan public. Mr. Worrell holds a lease of the theatre until May, but it is not probable that his daughters will return from the West before that time, where they are at present "starring." The future of this anomalous edifice is still undetermined. At Wallack's Theatre "Much Ado About Nothing" still keeps the boards, although it will soon be replaced by Mr. Robertson's "School." A slight change in the cast has been rendered necessary by the illness of Miss Rose Eytinge. This lady has been replaced by Mrs. Jenning's who makes a very charming *Beatrice*. Miss Annie Ward now plays *Hero*—Mrs. Jenning's part, and Miss Mary Barrett appears as *Margaret*, formerly assumed by Miss Ward. At Booth's Theatre Mr. Mark Smith has resigned his position of stage manager, although he still remains a member of the company and appears nightly as *Friar Lawrence*. Mr. Frank Lawlor has assumed the part of *Tybalt*. We learn that on the 20th of next September, Miss Bateman will commence an engagement at this theatre extending through ten weeks, supported by a strong company. This, it is said, will be the farewell appearance of this talented lady in America. At the Broadway Theatre Miss Kate Reignolds, recently returned from England, will commence an engagement on Monday next, producing a new drama written abroad and entitled, "The Shadow of a Crime." Miss Reignolds will be followed by Mr. Hackett as *Falstaff*. Mr. Barney Williams' lease of this theatre expires in May. It is understood that he will not renew it. At Niblo's "The Forty Thieves" still draw large houses. The early retirement of Miss Lisa Weber from the company is announced. Miss Markham is about to resume her part having recovered from her illness. At the Tammany the untamed velocipede has been introduced in an absurd local farce, the heroic rider being Miss Alice Harrison. The prices at this house have been reduced to a more popular standard. From London we learn that the German actor, Bandmann, well known in this city, has been recently united in bonds hymenial with the English actress, Miss Milly Palmer. They have appeared at Liverpool in a new comedy by Robertson. The Purim Ball, on Thursday of last week, was a marked success. The Academy of Music was thronged by the wealth and fashion of the Hebrew population of the metropolis, largely reenforced by deputations from circles outside of that persuasion. The arrangements for the regulation of details were perfect, and the several committees prompt and efficient in the discharge of their duties. The costumes were rich and generally in good taste, and the entire affair was characterized by a propriety that has not recently been a feature of our masked balls. The festivities were prolonged until an early hour, when the guests retired, evidently impressed by the fact that on such occasions the license of the Jardin Mabille is not a *sine qua non* of real enjoyment.

Reviews of New Books.

We have received from Messrs. D. Appleton and Co., *The Study of Languages Brought Back to its True Principles, or the Art of Thinking in a Foreign Language*, by C. Marcel, author of *Language as a Means of Mental Culture*, etc. Of the author of this little work the "Note to the American Edition" says: "The author is a French scholar of rare philosophical culture and linguistic accomplishments, who for many years has pursued the method in his own studies which he recommends to his readers. His success is brilliantly illustrated by the vigour and idiomatic purity which mark the composition of this volume." M. Marcel's method is a natural and pleasing one, quite out of the beaten track of routine teaching. Not a teacher himself, he still has brought the principles of philosophic inquiry to bear upon the subject, and has educed a system which recommends itself to the common sense of the student. In learning a modern language, M. Marcel divides the labour into four divisions, placed in the order of their importance: Reading, Hearing, Speaking, and Writing. The first thing to be attended to is the reading, which is to be commenced with the aid of a translation. Dictionaries are not recommended for immediate, or general use, they not being calculated to strengthen the student's memory. The "art of reading" is, moreover, to be acquired by the student himself without the aid of a teacher, whose services are only called into requisition at the second stage of the method—the "art of hearing." Here a teacher, or some one who can pronounce the foreign language, is needed to teach pronunciation by reading aloud to the pupil, and thus training the ear to recognize the language when spoken. The result of a faithful adherence to the method thus far, the author asserts, will ensure the following result: "By the mode of proceeding which we have described above, a person possessing the art of reading a foreign language, would be able in six weeks, or two months, at the most, to understand perfectly those who speak it, if he had at his command a reader, whether a professor, or not, who should, for half an hour at a time, at short intervals, read to him the foreign language; and if he visited the country where it is spoken, he would have still greater facilities for understanding its inhabitants and adopting their pronunciation; a servant, a child, even, who knows how to read, could rapidly forward him in this two-fold acquirement. Success is, in any case, accessible to the most humble fortune; for the first art (reading) is learned without a master, and the second (hearing) requires his services only for a very short time. These two arts are so easily and speedily acquired, when, conformably to the laws of nature and of reason, their study is freed from all the fetters of routine, that one might, in less than six months, read and understand French, for instance, as well as a native. He could not, however, in as many years learn to speak it like a Frenchman." Thus far the student has learned how to translate the language both when written and spoken; the next step is to learn to speak himself—by far the most difficult of the three steps in his progress. In learning the latter "art," the author recommends a thorough acquaintance with the verbs, and the constant use of what may be termed a model sentence, which the student transposes, alters, substitutes new words for, and metamorphoses at will. The art of writing is still more difficult of attainment, but less generally useful than the others. It will be seen that in the various stages of the student's progress, M. Marcel gives no place to the study of grammar, as such. On the contrary, he especially condemns it as calculated to lumber the scholar's mental storehouse, with a collection of useless rules of but little value until the language is nearly acquired. In this, as in all other matters, the author would follow the same process as that pursued in learning one's vernacular. The infant first listens and understands, then attempts to imitate the sounds heard. These elementary processes come long before any attempt to study the language grammatically. M. Marcel's method, we think, recommends itself to all proposing to either teach, or study a foreign language. The statements are perspicuous, and based in fact, and tally with the experience of all who have any acquaintance with the continental languages. It is to be regretted, however, that the author has not made his book rather a Manual for actual study, than a series of philosophical observations on the theory discussed. The subject, however, is a most interesting one, and the prospect now is that such reformers as Prendergrast (whose series we noticed last year) and Marcel will speedily overthrow the awkward, illogical, and tedious system at present in vogue for teaching foreign tongues. In speaking of pronunciation, M. Marcel makes the following remarks on a much-disputed question: "Some people think that the French language is spoken faster than the English; this is a great error. Voltaire shrewdly observed, that an Englishman gains every day two hours on a Frenchman in conversation. The truth is, that English is spoken considerably quicker than French. This results from a difference in kind in the pronunciation of these languages. * * * In English consonants predominate, and usually form the end of syllables; hence a rapidity of utterance is the unavoidable consequence. In French, on the contrary, consonants act but a secondary part, and are often silent. The spoken words, in reality, end with vowel-sounds, although consonants terminate their written representatives. In the division of words, consonants seldom terminate syllables. * * * The vowels, which contribute so much to lengthen the words, are pronounced full in French, as if every syllable were accented. From these facts there necessarily results a slow and steady enunciation. As the opinion of a foreigner, however, in regard to English pronunciation, can have little weight, we beg to quote a few competent authorities: 'Such is the vehemence of our accent, that every syllable which follows the accented is not only short, but almost lost in the pronunciation.' (Lord Monboddo.) 'We incline, in general, to a short pronunciation of our words, and have shortened the quantity of most of those which we have borrowed from the Latin.' (Hugh Blair.) 'Such is the propensity for dispatch that, overlooking the majority of words composed of many syllables aptly connected, the prevailing taste is to shorten words, so as to make them disagreeable to the ear.' (Lord Kames.) 'It must be regretted that contraction subjects our tongue to some of the most hissing, snapping, clashing sounds that ever grated the ear of a Vandal.' (John Walker.) 'Our national conversation is, for the most part, carried on in a series of most extraordinary and rugged abbreviations, a species of short-hand talking.' (Bulwer Lytton)."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Her Majesty's Tower. By William Hepworth Dixon ——He Knew He Was Right. By Anthony Trollope....*Harper and Bros*——The Lady of Lyons. Edited by Henry L. Hinton.....*Hurd and Houghton*.——Peg Woffington, Christie Johnson and other Stories. By Charles Reade. Household Edition .....*Fields Osgood and Co*.....The Eclectic Magazine. March.

Facts and Fancies.

HOME.

Yeste day President Grant sent to the Senate the following nominations for his Cabinet, which were immediately confirmed:—For Secretary of State, E. B. Washburne, of Illinois; for Secretary of the Treasury, A. T. Stewart, of New York; for Secretary of War, Gen. J. M. Schofield; for Secretary of Navy, Adolphe Borie, of Pa.; for Secretary of the Interior, J. D. Cox, of Ohio; for Postmaster General, A. J. Creswell, of Md.; for Attorney General, E. B. Hoare, of Mass.——In the "Griffith Gaunt" libel suit, in this city, the jury found for the plaintiff, (Mr. Reade,) awarding him six cents damages.——We have received from Montreal the sixteenth number of *Diogenes*, a weekly comic journal published in that city. The humour is chiefly local, much food for witty comment being found in the recent heavy falls of snow and the accidents occasioned thereby.——The American Presbyterian Church, at Montreal, has given a call to the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, offering him a salary equal to that he receives in Brooklyn.——The inauguration ceremonies at Washington were attended by immense crowds of visitors from abroad, and characterized by the most lively enthusiasm.——It is reported at Ottawa that Hon. Mr. Galt will again take a seat in the cabinet.——Railroad travel has been greatly obstructed in Canada during the past week. The Athabaska Railroad is so completely snowed up, that it will be abandoned for the season. In some places the snow lies in drifts nearly thirty feet deep.

FOREIGN.

The British War Office is in receipt of later intelligence from New Zealand. The British forces there had made reprisals on the natives for the outrages committed at Poverty Bay, during which several villages were destroyed, and ninety of the natives killed and wounded. The British lost only three wounded. The troops have also carried by assault the Maori stronghold, Nayatapha. The natives made a desperate defence, and lost two hundred killed and wounded, while the British loss was twenty-two.——Commander Spencer Huntley, of the British war steamer *Cherub*, was recently drowned at Nassau by the upsetting of a boat in the surf.——The London *Gazette* of the 8th ult. announced that the honour of knighthood has been conferred upon Mr. William Young, Chief Justice and President of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia.——The Mikado of Japan has issued an edict ordering the decapitation of all the inmates of a dwelling in which a conflagration originates, accidentally or otherwise.——According to the German papers, in fifty years St. Petersburg will have ceased to exist. The whole soil on which it stands is sinking, imperceptibly it is true, but with fearful regularity, and the examination that has been made has turned out so unfavourably that steps are being taken preparatory to removing the Court.——The authorised English Translation of "L'Homme qui Rit," by Victor Hugo, which was announced to appear in *Once a Week* at the beginning of this year, is unavoidably postponed until the first week in March.——At a recent fire in London, a wooden house in Cloth-fair, Smithfield, which had escaped the great fire in 1666, was destroyed.——A few strawberries have made their appearance at Covent Garden Market. The are selling at 3s. per ounce.——Monsignor Alberghini, Dean of the Rota at Rome, died on the last day of January, aged eighty. He was a great miser, and several times declined the Cardinal's hat from unwillingness to pay the expenses. He ate only soup and broth for dinner, and to the last refused to buy necessary nourishment.——The death in Brussels is announced of the Princess d'Aremberg of the fever which is at present prevailing in the Belgian capital.——Sir W. Fergusson has carefully examined the Siamese twins, and, we understand, concurs in the general opinion of surgeons that any surgical separation would be most likely attended with fatal consequences, not so much on account of any obstacle presented by the structure of the uniting band of flesh as the moral effect of the disunion on the two brothers.——Mlle. Christine Nilsson gives the weight of her name and authority to the adoption in England of the French pitch ("le diapason normal.")——Richard Wagner's new opera, "The Mastersingers ("Die Meistersanger") was given at Dresden on the 21st ult., and received with great enthusiasm. It is said to contain more melody than the earlier works of its composer.——Last Saturday week was the 269th anniversary of the day on which Henry IV. commenced planting the Tuileries Gardens. Among the chestnut-trees still existing, three or four are believed to date from that period.——An Italian money-changer has taken to flight, carrying away with him 200,000fr. The man before adopting the trade of *cambiavaluta* kept a tailor's shop. Some wag soon after he had changed his business wrote on his door: "Qui prima si vestiva, ora si spoglia." (Formerly here you were dressed, now you are undressed.) *Spoglia* signifies in Italian to undress, and to rob.——An amateur dramatic company in Sheffield have for some time been playing a sacred drama called "Joseph and his Brethren." Fifty thousand persons have witnessed the performances, which are now put a stop to.——The Princess Bacciochi, who has just died at Paris, and who is officially described as aunt of the Emperor of the French, though she did not stand in that degree of relationship to him, was a singular character. When resident at Rome some years ago, she discarded the use of bells and of the voice in summoning domestics, but fired pistol shots to bring them to her—one pistol-shot for her footman, two for her maid, three for the coachman, and so on.——Amongst all the new waltzes which

of 200 members of Parliament recently elected in England, no less than 41 were educated at Eton College. Harrow sends 15; Rugby, 16; Winchester, 8; Westminster, 2; Charterhouse, 8; Shrewsbury, 2; total, 82. St. Paul's and Merchant Taylors' send none.——Out of the eleven gentlemen who were in the boat at the time of the catastrophe in Yorkshire two of them had been in the memorable Balaklava charge—viz., Sir George Wombwell, formerly in the 17th Lancers, and Major Mussenden, now serving in the 8th Hussars.——The citizens of the United States in London, celebrated the birthday of George Washington on the 22nd ult. with great solemnity.——There is an amusing story just out concerning M. Rouher. When the youngest daughter of M. le Comte Welles de la Valette was born, the two *grandsperes* M. le Marquis de Valette, then Minister of the Interior, and M. Rouher, went to make declaration of the birth at the Mairie of the eighth arrondissement. "Your name, sir?" demanded the *employe aux naissance*, of the first witness. "Rouher." "How do you spell it?" "R—o—u, Rou, h—e—r, her, Rouher," replied the Minister with the greatest coolness. "Good. Your Christian name?" "Eugene." "Profession?" "Minister." "Minister of what?" "Minister of State." "Where do you live?" "At the Tuileries." "Can you sign your name?" "Yes." M. Rouher signed with gravity at the place indicate M. de la Valette being an inhabitant of the arrondissement, and known at the Mairie, the questions were for that gentleman less precise.——The Paris *Journal Officiel*, of the 16th inst. publishes the following notification:—Of the five cables which connected France and Belgium with England, two had been ruptured by the tempest. The land communications which join the three others on each side of the channel have also been broken, so that all telegraphic correspondence between France and England is completely suspended.——A correspondent of an English paper writes:—"I understand that her Majesty's health is anything but good, and she herself contemplates the public duties awaiting her with a nervousness approaching to dread. All indoor ceremonies have a depressing effect upon her, and standing for any length of time leads to violent attacks of sickness and faintness."——The vessel conveying the Prince and Princess of Wales on their anticipated visit to Constantinople, has been allowed permission to pass the Dardanelles by the Turkish government.——The Paris *Public* declares the alleged manifesto Queen Isabella published by the journals to be apocryphal.

GENERAL GRANT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

The following is General Grant's Inaugural Address in full:

CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES: Your suffrages having elected me to the office of President of the United States, I have, in conformity with the Constitution of our country, taken the oath of office prescribed therein. I have taken this oath without mental reservation, and with the determination to do, to the best of my ability, all that it requires of me.

The responsibilities of the position I feel, but accept them without fear. The office has come to me unsought; I commence its duties unitrammelled. I bring to it a conscientious desire and determination to fill it to the best of my ability to the satisfaction of the people. On all leading questions agitating the public mind I will always express my views to Congress and urge them according to my judgment, and when I think it advisable will exercise the constitutional privilege of interposing a veto to defeat measures which I oppose. But all laws will be faithfully executed, whether they meet my approval or not.

I shall on all subjects have a policy to recommend, none to enforce, against the will of the people. Laws are to govern all alike—those opposed to as well as those in favour of them. I know no method to secure the repeal of bad or obnoxious laws so effective as their stringent execution.

The country having just emerged from a great rebellion, many questions will come before it for settlement in the next four years, which preceding administrations have never had to deal with. In meeting these it is desirable that they should be appreciated calmly, without prejudice, hate or sectional pride, remembering that the greatest good to the greatest number is the object to be attained. This requires security of person, property, and for religious and political opinion in every part of our common country, without regard to local prejudice. All laws to secure this end will receive my best efforts for their enforcement.

A great debt has been contracted in securing to us and our posterity the Union. The payment of this principal and interest, as well as the return to a specie basis, as soon as it can be accomplished without material detriment to the debtor class or to the country at large, must be provided for.

To protect the national honour every dollar of the government indebtedness should be paid in gold, unless otherwise expressly stipulated in the contract. Let it be understood that no repudiation of one farthing of our public debt will be trusted in public places, and it will go far towards strengthening a credit which ought to be the best in the world, and will ultimately enable us to replace the debt with bonds bearing less interest than we now pay. To this shall be added a faithful collection of the revenue; a strict accountability to the Treasury for every dollar collected, and the greatest practicable retrenchment in expenditures in every department of government.

When we compare the paying capacity of the country now, with the ten States still in poverty from the effects of the war, but soon to emerge, I trust, into greater prosperity than ever before, with its paying capacity twenty-five years ago, and calculate what it probably will be twenty-five years hence, who can doubt the feasibility of paying every dollar then with more ease than we now pay for useless luxuries? Why, it looks as though Providence had bestowed upon us a strong box, the precious metals locked up in the sterile mountains of the far West, which we are now forging the key to unlock, to meet the very contingency that is now upon us.

Ultimately it may be necessary to increase the facilities to reach these riches, and it may be necessary also that the general government should give its aid to secure this access. But that should only be when a dollar of obligation to pay secures precisely the same sort of dollar in use now, and not before.

While the question of specie payments is in abeyance the prudent business man is careful about contracting debts payable in the distant future; the nation should follow the same rule. A prostrate commerce is to be rebuilt, and all industries encouraged. The young men of the country—those who form this age and must be rulers twenty-five years hence—have a peculiar interest in maintaining the national honour. A moment's reflection upon what will be our commanding influence among the nations of the earth in their day, if they are only true to themselves, should inspire them with national pride. All divisions, geographical, political and religious, can join in the common sentiment.

How the public debt is to be paid, or specie payments resumed, is not so important as that a plan should be adopted and acquiesced in. An united determination to do is worth more than divided counsels upon the method of doing. Legislation on this subject may not be necessary now, nor even advisable; but it will be when the civil law is more fully restored in all parts of the country, and trade resumes its wonted channels. It will be my endeavour to execute all laws in good faith, to collect all revenues assessed, and to have them properly disbursed. I will to the best of my ability, appoint to office only those who will carry out this design.

In regard to foreign policy, I would deal with nations as equitable law requires individuals to deal with each other, and I would protect the law-abiding citizen, whether of native or of foreign birth, whenever his rights are jeopardized, or the flag of our country floats. I would respect the rights of all nations, demanding equal respect for our own. If others depart from this rule in their dealings with us, we may be compelled to follow their precedent.

The proper treatment of the original occupants of this land, "the Indians, is one deserving of careful consideration." I will favour any course towards them which tends to their civilization, Christianization and ultimate citizenship.

The question of suffrage is one which is likely to agitate the public, so long as a portion of the citizens of the nation are excluded from its privileges in any state. It seems to me very desirable that this question should be settled now, and I entertain the hope and express the desire that it may be by the ratification of the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution.

In conclusion I ask patient forbearance one towards another, throughout the land, and a determined effort on the part of every citizen to do his share towards cementing a happy union, and I ask the prayers of the nation to Almighty God in behalf of this happy consummation.

Miscellanea.

A very extraordinary passage across the Atlantic has just been made by the United States storeship Guard, of six guns, Commander Adams. This fine ship, which is a sailing vessel, left New York for Lisbon on January 10, carrying stores for the American squadron in European waters. She encountered a succession of terrible gales, the violence of which may be inferred from the fact that one of her boats was washed away from the davits and lost, and the other battered into a complete wreck; and for days together she had to struggle against a perfect tempest of wind, hail, and snow, the waves all the time running very high and tossing the ship about in such a manner that it was almost impossible for the seamen to maintain their footing. In spite of these storms, however, Lisbon was sighted on the 17th day after leaving New York, and the same day the Guard arrived safely at that port in good order. So short a passage, under such adverse circumstances, must be considered a most remarkable achievement.

It will be remembered that a few weeks since the Marquis of Bute joined the Roman Catholic Church, and it is now rumoured that his Lordship contemplates entering into holy orders, and very shortly will be admitted a priest of the Roman Catholic Church. In the event of that being the case the singular and perplexing question will arise as to whether a Romish priest can take his position as a Peer in the House of Lords. The Romish priests are also understood to abjure all worldly property, and to hand everything they possess to the Church; hence the Marquis, with his vast income, will be a rich prize. The heir-presumptive of the Marquis is his cousin, Lieut.-Colonel Stuart, now M.P. for Cardiff, who, like the other members of the family, is a Protestant. Lieut.-Colonel Stuart is married to a daughter of Sir Hamilton Seymour, and has a family.

The Indian papers bring the unwelcome news that the famine so long dreaded is spreading fast in largely populated districts. The Government is making great efforts to deal with the distress inevitably occasioned, and to ward off its worst consequences. Private charity has been appealed to, but the general Government has made known to Sir William Muir its readiness to support the really helpless. The relief is to be administered, as far as possible, by providing the people with food and employment, and, in pursuance of this policy, £10,000 has been lent to one native State on the security of the revenues. The hopeful feature in the case is that the security is not likely to reach the Punjab, and that Oudh, "which is like a garden, is exporting grain in large quantities into the afflicted districts." We may hope, therefore, that the worst horrors of a famine will not fall upon the people whose crops have failed.

Intelligence has been received in Leamington, England, from the present Lord Somerville, who went out to Australia six or seven years ago, when there was only a very remote probability of the title ever reverting to him. The present peer, Auberry John Somerville, is the son of the Hon. and Rev. William Somerville, late Rector of Barford, Warwickshire, and it is expected that he will arrive in England early in the spring. He was cousin of the late Lord Somerville, who was recently killed in the hunting-field. His lordship has for some time been residing at Port Macquaire, where the intelligence of his having unexpectedly succeeded to the title reached him; and so soon as he can settle his affairs in the colony he will set out for England.

Gold diggings in the north of Scotland will be a surprise to many persons; but there they are, in the shire of Sutherland, and with a number of diggers who are collecting alluvium from the borders of the Holmsdale river, and washing it in the stream. The quantity hitherto collected is not great, perhaps £200 worth, but the quality is described as good, and the colour bright; and diggers who have worked in Australia are of opinion that when proper means are taken the yield will be something considerable.

There seems at last a hope that a successful mode of treating the bite of venomous snakes has been discovered. About half a year ago a sad accident happened at Melbourne to a gentleman who was bitten by a cobra that was being exhibited by a man who professed to have an infallible antidote for the poison. Professor Halford, of the Melbourne University, examined the blood shortly after death, and found that it was almost entirely changed into a mass of colourless cells, which plugged up the vessels and prevented the necessary access of oxygen to the various organs. This development of cells he regards as due to an unknown ferment contained in the snake-poison. Knowing that the internal administration of powerful stimulants (as alcohol and ammonia) in enormous doses has sometimes apparently saved persons who have been thus bitten, he has investigated the effect of ammonia directly thrown into a superficial vein. His experiments were made on five dogs which had been either bitten or inoculated with the poison of the tiger-snake, and in which vomiting and purging, and in one, entire paralysis, had come on. Four of these dogs recovered, and the fifth was doing well when Dr. Halford was called away for four hours, and, on his return, found it dead. The results are so encouraging that the professor states, that he should not have the slightest hesitation in applying this treatment to any human being who was severely bitten. To carry it out requires only a solution of the strongest liquor ammoniæ diluted with two parts of distilled water, and an ordinary hypodermic syringe. The solution of ammonia is thrown directly but gradually into the blood by puncturing any superficial vein, and the process must be repeated as the beneficial operation ceases. In all the dogs experimented on, it was found that immediately after the injection of the ammonia, the breathing became easy and the vomiting and purging ceased.

There have been years in which no frost and snow whatever were seen. In 1172, so mild was the season that the trees were covered with leaves, and the birds built their nests and hatched their young in the month of February. In 1289 there was no winter, and in 1421 white blossoms were to be seen on the ordinary trees in March, and on the vine in April; cherries ripened in the latter month, and the grape in May. In 1538 the gardens were bright with flowers in January; 1572 was like 1172; and 1607, 1612, and 1617 were remarkable for their genial temperament. Neither ice nor snow was visible in 1659; no stoves were lit in Germany in 1692; and the softness of the weather in 1791, 1807, and 1823, rendered those years quite phenomenal. So says an English paper.

At several of the London churches where advanced ritual has hitherto prevailed there is now a compliance under protest with the requirements of the recent judgment of the Privy Council. At All Saints', Margaret Street, Mr. Upton Richards, in a short address, said that he was grieved and distressed to tell his people that he should discontinue the altar lights, and so obey this "most unjust judgment," throughout which no Christian could fail to see that there was an intense desire to do despite to the Church of God. Dr. Miller, preaching at Greenwich, said he should defer acting upon certain portions of the judgment until after the meeting of Convocation. The decision would naturally come under the notice of the bishops, and he anticipated that a pastoral would be issued for the guidance of the clergy, and that some of the rubrics would be modified to meet the altered circumstances of the times.

Mrs. Stirling, in her speech at the recent dinner of the Dramatic Association, in England, gave the managers and authors present a bit of her mind on the subject of modern dramas; and what she said on that subject we repeat with applause:—

"I should first suggest to managers to cater for the higher instead of the lower tastes of the public, and to see whether there is not a large class that might be drawn to the theatre by a better style of entertainment. To some authors I would say, if we are to have burlesque, let it be of the humour that we remember of old, and be made up of better materials than nigger melodies, breakdowns, and wire-drawn puns. I would advise the more serious dramatist to be realistic in higher matters than hansom cabs and practicable pumps, and to give us characters and incidents as like the truth as the painted scenes before which they are played."

Australian meat seems at last to be arriving in England in large quantities. It was stated at a dinner given to about 200 gentlemen by the Messrs. M'Call, that the Australian Meat Company had in 1867-68 exported 1,164,970lb. of beef preserved by enclosure in hermetically-sealed tins exhausted of air. This beef is sold at 7d. per lb. without bone, equivalent to 5½d. per lb., and is said to be perfectly fresh and good, though it comes over nearly cooked. The Company is now trying mutton, and has opened an establishment in the Strand.

Men of letters and men of science will everywhere hear with regret of the death of Lady Murchison, though she has gone from among them in the fulness of years and honour. She was a very good naturalist; and it is well known that her partner, Sir Roderick, was first persuaded by her influence and her accomplishments to devote himself to those scientific studies which h[illegible] him to his present high place.

ART NOTES.

Picture dealers say that the present season has been thus far an unusually dull one, owing to the absence of buyers. Some demand is, however, reported for water-colour drawings, and several of those on exhibition at the Academy of Design have been sold at satisfactory prices. A picture by Oregon Wilson, entitled "Sunshine," was recently sold to Mr. James Fisk, Jr., for $700, and presented by him to Mr. Jay Gould. A collection of paintings, owned by the late Emanuel Leutze, has been on exhibition since Friday evening last, at the gallery of Levitt, Strebeigh, and Co., preparatory to its sale by auction.

Rome is said to be more than usually full of American artists just now. Among them are Healey, Mozier, Ives, Rogers, Read, Coleman, Yewell, Tilton, Hazelton, Terry, Miss Homer, Miss Stebbins and Church. Church's "Damascus," Hazelton's "Capri," Read's life-size picture of "Sheridan's Ride," the canvas for which he has just set up in Rosetti's studio, and Rogers' statue of "President Lincoln Signing the Emancipation Proclamation," are the works most talked of.

Lovers of art in general, and Americans especially, says a London paper, have been attracted towards the studio of the American sculptor, Mr. Rogers, to see his colossal figure of the late President Lincoln, which has been exhibited in the clay before being cast in plaster. A statue never looks better than it does in the clay, and Mr. Rogers' work looked grand and impressive in its simplicity. The figure, which is twelve feet high, is represented sitting with a pen in the right hand and a scroll in the left, as after signing the Emancipation Act. The President's face is turned rather upwards with the earnest expression of a man who has just accomplished a great and noble duty. American visitors who knew Mr. Lincoln intimately declare the likeness to be perfect. The pedestal will be fourteen feet high, and enriched with *bas-reliefs* and emblematic ornaments. The figure will be cast in bronze at Munich, and the monument when complete, is destined to adorn one of the public squares in Philadelphia, possibly the open space at the junction of Broad Street and Market Street. The Americans are becoming more and more liberal patrons of art in Rome and other art-producing cities of the Continent, and although they do not limit their patronage to their countrymen in the way of sculpture and painting, they are sufficiently patriotic to give them a decided preference.

Artists of all countries are invited to send works in painting, sculpture, architecture, and engraving to the International Exhibition which will be held in Munich this summer, and which is to last from July till October. The Bavarian Government intends to follow the example set by the French Government with the Legion of Honour, and to confer decorations on such artists as are recommended for such a distinction by the jury.

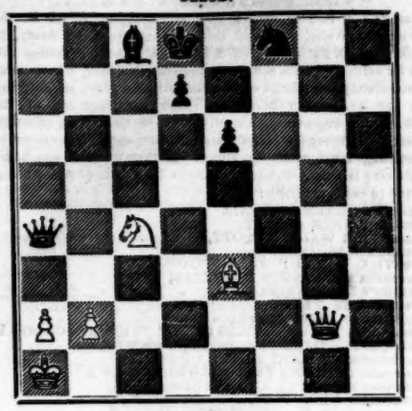
Mr. J. H. Parker is again busily engaged this winter upon fresh excavations at Rome. The Papal authorities are more favourably inclined to his work than they were a year or two since.

We hear from Rome that the sculptor Tadolini has just completed an admirable group in marble, representing Saint Michael overthrowing Lucifer. Chevalier Scipion Tadolini is the son of Canova's best pupil, and is considered the first sculptor in Rome after Tenerani.

Chess.

PROBLEM, No. 1,051.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in 4 moves.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM No. 1,050.

White.	Black.
1 Q B to Q 4	1 Kt tks B [best]
2 K B to Q 5	2 K to Q B 4
3 Q to Q B 8	

If Black play 2 P tks B, White mates by advancing the Q B Pawn.

The following game was played between Messrs. Neumann and Golmayo, Paris Tournament, for the Emperor's prize, last month.

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
1 K P 2	Q B P 2	30 B Q B 2	Q Kt P 1
2 Q Kt B 3	K P 1	31 Q P 1	K tks P
3 B B 4	Q R P 1	32 Q B P 1	R Q
4 Q R P 2	K Kt K 2	33 Q B tks Kt P	B K B 3
5 Q P 1	Kt Kt 3	34 B Q 2	B Q 5
6 K Kt K 2	B K 2	25 B K 3	B tks B
7 Castles	Castles	36 Q tks B	Kt tks P
8 K B P 2	K B P 2	37 Q Kt 6 (c)	Q tks Q
9 K Kt Kt 3	K R	38 R tks Q	B Q R
10 Q R 5	B B 3	39 R tks Kt	B tks R
11 K P 1	B K 2	40 K tks B	K R P 2
12 B Q 2	Q Kt B 3	41 K B 3	R R 3
13 Q R K	Kt Q 5	42 Kt K 2	R B 3
14 Q Q	Q P 2	43 Q B P 1	R Q B
15 P tks P [in passing]	Q tks P	44 Q B P 1	K P 1
		45 P tks P	K R tks P
16 Q Kt K 2	Q Kt P 2	46 R tks R	R tks R
17 B R 2	K Kt 2	47 B tks P	R Q B 4
18 Kt tks Kt	Q tks Kt x	48 K K 4	R B 7
19 B K 3	Q Q 3	49 K Q 3	R B 4
20 B B	Q B 3	50 K Q 4	R R 4
21 R B 2	Q B P 1	51 Kt B 3	Kt P 2
22 Q P 1	Kt R 5 (a)	53 B Q 7	K Kt 2
23 Q K 2	R B 3	53 K P 1	K B
24 Q B P 1	R Kt 3	54 Kt Q 5	R R
25 B Q 3	Q R K B (b)	55 K P 1 x	K B 2
26 Q Kt P 1	K Q B	56 P Queens x	R tks Q
27 K Q Kt	B P tks P	57 B tks R x	K tks B
28 B tks B	R Q	58 Kt B 6 x	K B 2
29 P tks P	P tks P	59 Kt tks P and wins	

(a) Q R Q would have been much better play.
(b) Losing much valuable time.
(c) Very well played, securing an easy victory.

Game between Messrs. Jenay and Hampe.

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
1 K P 2	K P 2	17 Q R Q 3	K R P 1
2 Kt K B 3	Q P 1	18 K R P 2	Kt Q 3
3 Q P 2	P tks P	19 Kt Q R 5	Kt Q B 4
4 B Q B 4	Kt Q B 3	20 Kt tks Kt P (a)	Kt tks R
5 Q B P 1	Q P 1 to 6th	21 Q tks Kt	K Kt P 1 (b)
6 Q tks P	B K 2	22 Q Q R 6	K Q 2
7 B K B 4	B K 3	23 K Q sq	P tks Kt
8 B tks B	P tks B	24 R tks Kt	K K
9 Q Kt Q 2	K P 1	25 Kt Q B 5	Q K Kt 5
10 B K Kt 3	Q Q 2	26 Q B 6 x	K B 2
11 Kt Kt 3	Q K 3	27 B tks K B P x	K Kt 3
12 Q Kt 5	Castles	28 Kt Q 5	K R 2
13 Castles on K's side	K R P 1	29 Q Q 5	B tks K R P
		30 R K B 7 x	K K
14 Q R Q	K Kt B 3	31 Kt tks K P	Q Kt 4
15 K R K	K Kt P 2	33 B tks Q B P and Black resigns	
16 Q B P 1	K R K Kt		

(a) An ingenious combination.
(b) Taking R would have been dangerous on account of White's reply, Kt tks K P.

UP-TOWN IMPROVEMENTS.—Mr. J. N. Gimbrede, the well-known Card Engraver, Stationer and Importer of Fancy Articles, has leased the entire Building at the corner of 16th Street and Broadway, and will soon make extensive alterations, and enlarge his store, for the better accommodation of the growing up-town trade. The upper part of the building will be altered and opened by Wm. Kritz, as a Photographic Gallery.

THE SARSAPARILLA DIGGERS OF YUCATAN. This singular set of people are descended from the ancient Aztecs of Southern Mexico, and still retain some of the peculiarities which Stephens and Prescott gave of their ancestors. Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., employ a small army of them in digging Sarsaparilla root. Provided with narrow spades, a coil of rope, and a bag of water, they are ready for the forest where the wild banana furnishes them food, and thick-leaved trees their only shelter. Few of those who find themselves rejuvenated by this product, know how much they are indebted to the toil of these humble laborers, who dig health for thousands of Doctor Ayer's patrons, while they sometimes lose their own.—[Boston Commercial,

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Office, 144 and 146 Broadway.

Twenty-Sixth General Statement of The Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York, for the Year ending January 31st, 1869.

[For Detailed Statement see Annual Report.]

Net Assets, February 1st 1868		$32,662,452 14
Receipts during the year		13,129,131 06
		35,791,983 20
Disbursements during the year		6,466,688 10
NET ASSETS, JAN. 31st, 1869		$29,325,295 10

INVESTED AS FOLLOWS:

Cash	$1,883,689 63	
Bonds and Mortgages	21,458,357 48	
United States and New York State Stocks, cost	5,003,108 75	
Real Estate	951,307 08	
Due from Agents	29,333 21	
		29,325,295 10
ADD:		
Deferred premiums [semi-annually and quarterly]	1,339,679 95	
Premiums principally for Policies issued in December and January, in course of transmission	358,500 07	
Interest due and paid	6,614 83	
Interest accrued but not due, on Stocks, Bonds and Mortgages	245,670 00	
Market Value of Stocks in excess of cost	556,628 81	
		2,509,093 66
GROSS ASSETS, JANUARY 31, 1869		$31,834,388 76

THE ASSETS ARE THUS APPROPRIATED:

Net Reserves, Company's Table, 4 per cent.	28,753,512 02	
Surplus	3,080,872 74	
		31,834,388 76
Amount of New Insurance for the year	$53,442,235 00	
Number of Policies	17,354 00	
Total Number of Policies in force January 31st, 1869	62,466 00	
Amount insured thereby	204,963,565 00	

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Liabilities, $289,563 98.

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KNIGHT'S LORD NELSON.
BUCKLER'S ST PAUL'S, LONDON,
PORTRAIT OF GENL. HAVELOCK,
HERRING'S THREE MEMBERS OF THE TEMPERANCE SOC'Y
THE CASTLE OF ISCHIA, from Stanfield's Picture,
WANDESFORDE'S MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS,
LANDSEER'S RETURN FROM HAWKING.
LANDSEER'S DIGNITY AND IMPUDENCE,
LANDSEER'S DEER PASS,
WANDESFORDE'S FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE,
WILKINS' COLUMBUS' NEW WORLD,
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THE FALLS OF NIAGARA, from an original drawing made for the ALBION.
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MERCY'S DREAM.
WASHINGTON AT VALLEY FORGE.
GENERAL GRANT AND FAMILY.

For terms of subscription, etc., see first page.

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The *Albion* will be sent to subscribers until explicitly ordered to be discontinued, and until payment of all arrears has been made. Subscribers will observe that the subscription is payable in advance, and they will please note when their term of subscription expires, and remit for the ensuing year, without notice from the office.

On the 19th of November, the former proprietors of this journal parted with their entire interest in it, including all debts due to the establishment of whatsoever kind. Subscribers and others indebted to the *Albion* will please take notice of this fact, and remit to the present proprietor without further notice.

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K. CORNWALLIS,
Counsellor at Law,
11 Broad street, New York.

THE
NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY, OF NEW YORK.
No. 212 BROADWAY, Corner Fulton Street.
FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.
JAN. 1, 1869.

RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR 1868.

For premiums, extra premiums, &c.	$306,972 70	
For Interest	14,675 95	
For interest accrued	6,935 89	$328,585 54

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid claims, by death, on policies	34,700 00	
Paid expenses, taxes, Revenue stamps, medical examiners' fees, commissions, &c.	81,664 50	
Paid reinsurance, purchased policies, &c.	23,057 48	$139,421 98

ASSETS, JAN. 1, 1869.

Cash in Bank and on hand, and in course of transmission	$16,433 03	
United States 5-20 Bonds, market value	116,189 50	
Premium loans on policies in force	153,811 38	
Quarterly and semi-annual premiums deferred, and premiums and interest in course of collection and transmission.	121,879 09	
Interest accrued to date, and all other property	29,936 97	$438,247 97

The Directors of the NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, in presenting the foregoing report of the operations of the Company for the year 1868, take great pleasure in calling attention to the very favourable condition of its affairs.

The income of the Company increased during the year nearly $116,000, while the total expenses were but a small percentage over the previous year, which shows that, while every energy is bent toward increasing the amount of business, the greatest care is exercised in the management of its affairs, in order that by a low scale of expenses the dividends to its policy holders may be largely increased.

The assets of the Company were increased during the year from the sum of $292,383 41 to $438,247 97.

The following shows the

PROGRESS OF THE COMPANY.

Policies issued in 1864	17,	$33,500
Insuring the sum of		
Policies issued in 1865	482,	1,357,900
Insuring the sum of		
Policies issued in 1866	707,	2,011,532
Insuring the sum of		
Policies issued in 1867	1,016,	2,761,803
Insuring the sum of		
Policies issued in 1868	1,331,	3,558,234
Insuring the sum of		

The above shows a steady increase in the business of the Company, and is a convincing proof of the soundness of the plans on which it is worked, and the increasing confidence of the community in its management.

The Directors have, after a careful actuarial valuation of the Assets and Liabilities of the Company, and making ample reserves to cover every possible contingency, declared

A DIVIDEND OF FIFTY PER CENT.

on LIFE POLICIES and of THIRTY-FIVE PER CENT. on ENDOWMENT POLICIES, which dividend is payable at the time of the annual premium due in 1869, on all Policies entitled to participate in the profits, which may be in force and which were issued previous to the first of January, 1867.

The Directors would call attention to the Special Advantages offered to insurers in THE NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

All policies non-forfeiting, on the principle of the Non-forfeiture law of Massachusetts.

The following, from the *Chronicle*, of Chicago, shows the value of above:

It has been said that "Corporations have no Souls," but that there are exceptions to all rules is shown in the action taken by THE NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, of New York, of which Company Mr. EDWARD A. JONES is President. This Company has voluntarily adopted and applied the principle of the Massachusetts Non forfeiture law to all their Policies, by which, when a person insured becomes unable to continue his payments, the entire amount of the Policy is kept good for a considerable time. The value of this liberal action can be seen by the following quotation from the Massachusetts Insurance Commissioner's Report for 1859: "There are far more cases of hardship from the forfeiture of policies, and more hard-earned money is wrenched from its proper owners than the public is aware of." This class of misfortunes, for obvious reasons, does not court publicity.

Note taken for part of the annual premium.

No interest charged on semi-annual or quarterly premiums.

Thirty days' grace allowed in payment of premiums.

The above offer to the insurer terms of unequalled liberality.

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STITZEL & UPTON, Portland, Oregon, for Oregon and Washington.

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